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Middle East & North Africa

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Item 856-B-6 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-131

FBIS-MEA-78-131
Friday
7 July 1978
Vol V No 131

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FATAH DELEGATION MEETS WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS

JN061712Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of the General Command of the Al-'Asifah forces; brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the Fatah Central Committee; and brother Abu 'Ammar Sa'd, Fatah representative in Syria, met yesterday morning with Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Armed Forces and minister of defense; Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, Syrian chief of staff; and Dr Rif'at al-Asad. The Fatah delegation discussed with the Syrian brothers the Palestinian-Syrian relations as well as the local and Arab situation.

'ARAFAT ON UN FORCE ROLE, ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

LD061257Y Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 28 Jun 78 p 15 LD

[By Eva Bratholm]

[Text] "We have no problems with the Norwegian troops; we have good relations with them. We give our full support to the UN troops' objective of securing and facilitating the Israeli withdrawal in southern Lebanon. But we are reluctant to accept or respect the UN forces' role as guardian of the Israeli occupation."

That is what PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview with a Socialist Left Party [SV] delegation which has just visited Lebanon. The interview is published in today's edition of NY TID. The delegation, which consisted of Party Chairman Berge Furre and NY TID editor Audgunn Oltedal, among others, spent almost 1 week in Lebanon and visited political leaders, frontline positions and refugee camps.

Berge Furre told ARBEIDERBLADET that 'Arafat stressed that relations with the Norwegian UN forces were good and that it was noteworthy that the UN troops came from several countries; otherwise, according to Furre, 'Arafat was sober and assessed the situation in Lebanon as difficult and very complex. In his opinion, both the U.S. role and Israel's reluctance to withdraw were important reasons for this. 'Arafat was referring here to the fact that the United States has departed from last fall's joint declaration, when Carter was operating with the principle of "a Palestinian homeland."

"Now the United States is advocating giving the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt. We reject these plans and will fight against them," he told the SV delegation.

Of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, he said:

"No real withdrawal has taken place. The Israelis themselves are still inside the Lebanese borders. Israeli tanks with Israeli soldiers as 'volunteers' are deployed at strategic points on ridges and mountains," he said. As regards this, 'Arafat has sent a map with the Israeli forces' positions plotted to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Berge Furre reported that the view of this--in the PLO's opinion--pro forma withdrawal varies. 'Arafat regards it as both politically and militarily entirely useless. On the other hand, it is more difficult to demand a withdrawal when the Israelis claim that they have already withdrawn. Other PLO sections believe, however, that the withdrawal is at least a political victory.

Asked if the situation is now so explosive that there is a danger of a major war, 'Arafat replied in the affirmative. Yet he believes that is will hardly be a full war but restricted, like the invasion of southern Lebanon.

'Arafat was also asked if he regards negotiations as a means to make progress in the conflict. He replied that he doubts that. "As-Sadat offered Israel everything but received nothing in return. In the present situation I do not believe, either, that negotiations are useful."

[Question] But what if the balance of power changes?

"We are realists. If the state of affairs changes we will discuss the situation. From the experience we have of our enemies we know that they understand nothing except force. That is why I prefer to rely on my gun," 'Arafat said.

Commenting on his meeting with Arafat, Berge Furre said that he was surprised at what a sober and even pragmatic politician he is. Furre also said that he is very impressed by the PLO effort on behalf of the Palestinian people; among other things, a health service has been set up for all, and the refugee camps have been considerably improved. He also stressed the effort to create an industrial base for the people.

SYRIA, IRAQ REPORTEDLY TO JOIN 'FREEZE' OF PDRY

LD051354Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh--Ar-Riyadh today reports that Syria and Iraq have officially advised the Arab League that they will adhere to the implementation of the resolutions of the emergency meeting of the league's council with regard to freezing political, diplomatic and economic relations with the PDRY. The paper quotes a report by its Cairo correspondent saying that the two countries have informed the Arab League that the fact that they did not attend the meetings of the council did not mean they would not adhere to its resolutions and recommendations.

FATAH REPLIES TO REJECTIONIST MEMORANDUM

WA070134Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Jun 78 p 22 WA

[Article: "Fatah circular answers rejectionist front; Palestinian decision is made by Fatah under national leadership represented by Yasir 'Arafat; we will send delegation to Iraq to demand that Abu Nidal be stopped; memorandum contains ridiculous trivialities and goes along with sources of financing; our cooperation with Syria guarantees our armed presence and Israel's withdrawal from the south"]

[Text] Beirut--exclusive report AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM has obtained the text of a circular issued by the Political Security Department of the Palestinian national liberation movement (Fatah) to the movement's cadres. The circular is a reply to the memorandum issued by the rejectionist organizations and the democratic front (Hawatimah's front) and rejects the approach of the front's memorandum, which refuses to acknowledge Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. The following is the text of the circular:

When the Fatahists adopted their historic decision to move from escalation to detonation, they were in a race with time to foil the U.S. plan to liquidate the national leadership (Fatah) in two steps:

A. Causing the south to fall tragically through a crushing defeat;

B. Pushing the unpatriotic leftist elements to topple Yasir 'Arafat's leadership and to defame the patriotic leaders.

The mighty and historic Tel Aviv operation led to detonating the situation in the face of Israel, the United States and the collusionist Arab regimes. Then came the war of the South, after which we moved to inflict a political defeat on both Israel and the United States by forcing Israel to withdraw through our international relations with the Soviet Union, utilizing the unsettled international political situation which permits the small forces to depend on the Soviet Union to impose positions on major issues. The outcome of the war of the south has stunned U.S.-Israeli planners on the one hand and the unpatriotic left, the ally of the reactionary right, on the other. So these unpatriotic leftist drew up a new plan to foil the qualitative leap achieved by Fatah under the patriotic leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. They secretly transported their members by plane to southern Lebanon with the aim of attacking the UN forces and of touching off the situation in Fatah's face at a time when Sham'un was detonating the situation in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

When our heroic forces foiled this plot--the objectives of which were, investigation showed, unknown to 95 percent of its participants--the U.S. planner resorted to disguising himself with radical names in an attempt to kill Colonel Salvan, a French officer. As a result of our firm policy toward France and our cooperation with the friendly French Communist Party, the French Government was forced to sit down with the National Movement, to consider it a fundamental party in the Lebanese arena and to consult it along with the existing government. Salvan was in a Fatah car and on his way to implement the National Movement's demands in the south when the plan's executors stopped him and tried to kill him in order to touch off the situation in the south and consequently to tear apart the Cairo Agreement, to force a date to be set for Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and to have lackeys take over power in Lebanon and put an end to the publicly acknowledged armed presence in Lebanon. Through flexibility and through brother Abu al-Lutf's meeting with the French foreign minister in Paris, we were able to learn and overcome this new plot.

Last week a very instructive thing happened. The Hawatimists, whose political program demands a united Palestinian-Israeli state, met with the rejectionists, who turn down everything, and sent a five-party memorandum to Fatah. What does the memorandum contain? What is its main objective, and why was it issued?

Memorandum content: The memorandum contains seven sections.

First, position toward political settlement:

The memorandum says: We must escalate all forms of military, political and popular struggle inside and outside the occupied territories for a continued confrontation against the enemy camp represented by imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction so that we may change the balance of powers in our interests.

Here we must comment that "those with any shame in them have died." Without Fatah, no armed struggle is escalated. The voice of Dalal al-Maghribi, of the war in the south and of the Katyusha rockets in Jerusalem which forced the enemy to cancel most of his celebrations is still filling the world.

The organizations signing the memorandum have not issued a single communique on armed operations in the occupied territories in the past 4 years. It is as if they have omitted armed struggle from their agenda. Let them point out to us a single military action they have carried out since the Lebanese war started.

Our record of struggle as Fatahists abounds with testimony of our struggle and makes us raise our head very high. We must pay close attention here to their demand for escalating the armed struggle inside and outside the occupied territories. Their aim behind this is to get a decision permitting them to engage in armed struggle against the Arab regimes. Who is preventing them? We the Fatahists will not be drawn into side battles causing the Arab masses to be separated from us. The Tel Aviv operation has proven that the Fatahist analysis is the more correct and accurate analysis, because this operation has shaken As-Sadat, those in solidarity with him and the vacillating regimes.

Second, position toward Arab regimes:

The memorandum has presented two points under this heading: First, it rejects any contacts for seeking a reconciliation with Jordan; and, second, it accuses Fatah of not working seriously for the unity of the progressive Arab official and popular forces within the framework of a broad front opposed to the capitulatory settlement--a front that would constitute the Arab framework enabling the Palestinian revolution to liberate the entire Palestinian soil.

All the brothers must know that there are no contacts with Jordan and that, very regrettably, issues are fabricated to launch malicious attacks against Fatah. Otherwise, why don't they express their opinion on the Algerian-Jordanian contacts, Libyan-Jordanian contacts and Iraqi-Jordanian contacts?

For the first time since 1970, the Jordanian regime now has relations with all the Arab countries. So why are the rejectionists and Hawatimists keeping silent on these developments? The reason is clear. They don't speak against their major sources of financing.

As for the unity of the official progressive forces, who is preventing them from uniting? Our answer to the liberation of the entire soil is that this is ridiculous. The independent Palestinian policy that is not subservient to anybody and that stems from the barrel of the Palestinian rifle is what determines this issue.

Third, position toward steadfastness and confrontation front:

The memorandum says the role played by some resistance factions toward the steadfastness and confrontation front has not been effective in moving the masses to exert pressure on the front to develop its policy, positions and commitments.

We in Fatah believe that the steadfastness and confrontation front's rejection of As-Sadat's initiative was important because it demonstrated that the Palestinians are not the only voice rejecting that initiative. However, it is unfair for us to burden ourselves with what is beyond our capacity. If the official steadfastness and confrontation front needs popular press to develop its policy and positions, then this casts doubts on the front and on its effectiveness.

How can we exert pressure on Algeria, Libya, Syria, Aden or Iraq through our masses? This is quite ridiculous. Are the revolutionaries in need of being revolutionized?

The steadfastness and confrontation front's countries are preoccupied with their problems. Algeria is facing attrition through the Sahara conflict. Libya is facing plots from every direction and through Chad and Egypt. Syria is faced with attrition by Lebanon, and by its conflict with Iraq.

Aden is faced with a threat from its neighbors. This objective reality is what paralyzes the steadfastness and confrontation countries. We are required to study this reality, which forced the liberation organization to lead the confrontation against the Israelis, while the front's regimes took only a position of support and steadfastness.

Fourth, conditions on Lebanese arena:

Under this heading, the memorandum presents five points:

Alliance with the national movement: Here is a quote from the memorandum: "We believe that the correct formula for the alliance with the Lebanese Nationalist Movement lies in giving this movement the freedom of making the decision, and in placing at its disposal all our capabilities and resources so that it may serve the common struggle and may be included in the political and military leadership in this arena, in order that it may liberate the southern Lebanese soil and may achieve its national and democratic goals." Such words are serious but unobjective, and approving them means shirking responsibility. We the Fatahists have 95 percent of the combat forces, while the rejectionists and Hawatimah have 2.5 percent, and the National Movement has 2.5 percent of these forces. How, then, can we shoulder the responsibility of waging the war and not have any relation with the war decision? We and the Nationalist movement are partners in the decision, and ceding this partnership means that the south will not be liberated. If some people believe that the situation will change as soon as we put our forces under their command, then this is ridiculous and childish. We did put our forces under their command during the mountain battles, but reaped no victory.

It is either that each of us is free in his decision or we are partners, because blood and the life of peoples can stand no sentiments.

Fifth, relations with traditional personalities: the memorandum says that our contacts with the traditional personalities is what made them approve the 13-member committee's statement.

We say that when the outcome of things becomes clear, there is no place for interpretation and analysis. The 13-member committee statement ended as a result of the intelligent manner in which we waged the battle.

The preface to the 13-member committee statement saying that the statement stems from the Cairo and Riyad summit agreements strengthens and entrenches the Cairo Agreement, because the Cairo and Riyad summit declarations constitute an Arab recognition of the Cairo Agreement.

Al-Huss failed to form a new cabinet because the parliament failed to interpret the 13-member committee statement. The cabinet was then formed and started to discuss with us implementation of the Cairo Agreement.

We are proud to have foiled the Shi'a-Maronite alliance that was about to emerge. The parliament has failed to form a front against us, and Sham'un has begun to collapse. We have to work with the dough in our hands. Where are the national forces in the parliament? If Kamal Junblatt were alive at present, many things would be different.

Sixth, agreements with Lebanese authority, position toward UN forces, relations with the Palestinian and Lebanese masses:

Under this enormous and provocative heading, the memorandum cites an issue incompatible with the heading. It says in a few lines:

"Information indicates the continued indirect opportunities for holding direct negotiations with the United States through the reactionary capitals. This encourages the imperialist circles to continue their efforts to splinter the resistance and to drag some of its factions toward the settlement."

This statement is a ridiculous one. The only country in the world with which we will not negotiate is Israel because negotiating with it means recognition, and recognizing Israel is a crime and a deviation from the national principles. But we may negotiate with any other state if such negotiation can secure for us our rights.

Any U.S. rapprochement toward the liberation organization means shattering U.S.-Israeli relations. This is why many Arab countries are offering to talk on our behalf to demand U.S. recognition of the liberation organization. While agreeing, we know in advance that the outcome will be the failure of these regimes in their mission. Consequently, these regimes will stop asking us to tone down our relations with the socialist countries. [sentence as published] The Fatahist political genius is what makes us able to establish relations with Moscow, Riyadh and Peking according to the interest of the cause solely.

They ask us to establish relations via the progressive capitals, and everybody knows that Brezhnev worked seriously to achieve this. The Soviet-American declaration is nothing but a step on this path.

Seventh, they projected our views as follows:

Under this heading, the memorandum states the following: "We propose that the general secretaries of all the resistance factions, representatives of the Fatah Central Committee and other approved national elements form the leadership council of the Palestinian revolution." This seventh provision is the memorandum's sole objective, because approving it means abolition of the PLO Executive Committee and this, consequently, means abolishing Fatah's leadership and abandoning the Palestinian arena to the rejectionists. This proposed suggestion is the majority [as published].

All the organizations financed by Iraq found themselves in a great dilemma when Fatah leadership was able to overcome the painful past with Syria and to transform the relation from confrontation to truce and understanding, and then started to search for a common concept. In its foreign relations our pioneer movement abides by a number of rules which it never abandons except when anarchists control matters. The most important of these rules are:

1. We do not evaluate matters on the basis of who we are with, but on the basis of who is with us.

2. Our goal is never to create Arab axes, but to lead the Arabs back, voluntarily or involuntarily, to confront Zionism.

3. Tell me what your position toward the Palestinian cause is, and I will tell the people whether you are ultimately a progressive or a reactionary.

4. Diversity of financial resources is a guarantee for independence in making the political decision.

Our adherence to this policy has made the various Arab regimes incapable of polarizing us to serve their interest and to use us as instruments in the regional inter-Arab conflict.

While exerting serious efforts for establishing with Syria relations that would guarantee continued overt armed presence in Lebanon, we will not agree to be an instrument in the hand of Syria to strike Iraq. But at the same time we will not condone Iraq's continued sabotage acts against us, and we will resist these acts from a purely Fatahist Palestinian basis. The rejectionist front and the Hawatimists have imprisoned themselves throughout the preceding stage in the Arab axes and have mobilized their bases with the line of retreat in anticipation of an internal explosion. This is why they feared the new approach when our movement started to utilize the military victory in the south to create instruments that would enable them to make a new, qualitative leap. What have they been afraid of?

They have been afraid of the resumption of relations with Syria because they cannot establish balanced relations with Iraq and Syria simultaneously, at a time when Iraq has no balanced relations with Syria. We, however, do have such balanced relations.

They have been afraid of our plan from which we have not backed down, and which seeks to fully unite the Palestinian military forces and not just have them unified in a front. With the rifle, there can be no fronts.

We now have qualified officers of various ranks and we have a superior number of fighters. Therefore, unity between the liberation army and Al-'Asifah will constitute a nucleus for a single popular Palestinian army. This is why we are not afraid of the unity of the rifle. We will lose nothing by this unity and we will become stronger, whereas they are afraid.

The movement of the rejectionists and Hawatimists is nothing but an Iraqi movement to exert pressure on Fatah before a Fatah Central Committee delegation heads for Iraq to hold discussions there in response to an Iraqi request.

We will go to Iraq and will do our utmost to establish good relations if Iraq expresses its willingness to stop the Iraqi radio broadcasting in the name of Abu Nidal, and shows its readiness to stop interfering in Fatah's internal affairs.

We must keep our eyes open in the coming phase. Should anybody try to touch off the situation, we will bring it down on his head. At the same time, we will hold a dialog with the rejectionists and the Hawatimists. We will not accept any institutions outside the framework of the PLO.

PLO ISSUES COMPLAINT ON IRAQI POLICIES

JN041729Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 4 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee today sent an official memo to the Iraqi Government through the Iraqi Embassy in Damascus. The memo includes a number of important points pertaining to the crimes committed against Palestinian leaders by criminals and killers given shelter by the Iraqi Government. Those killers and hirelings assassinated martyr Sa'id Hammami and martyr 'Ali Nasir Yasin, PLO representatives in London and Kuwait.

During its recent meeting in Damascus, the PLO Executive Committee decided to boycott all official and popular meetings that take place or are held in Iraq. This is owing to the Iraqi Government's stand toward the Palestinian revolution and its protection of the criminal and murderous hirelings.

FATAH ASKS KUWAIT FOR FACTS ON YASIN'S KILLING

JN041953Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 4 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut, 4 July--The Fatah Revolutionary Council has asked the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry to announce the results of the investigations concerning the killing of the PLO Kuwait representative, 'Ali Yasin. In a memorandum addressed to Kuwaiti Interior Minister Nawaf al-Ahmad and published in Beirut today, the council said that it is ready to send (?a delegation) to give the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry all the details concerning the killing of 'Ali Yasin.

FATAH'S ABU SALIH ARRIVES IN GDR FOR VISIT

JN061716Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1700 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Abu Salih, member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of the General Command of Al-'Asifah forces, arrived in Berlin yesterday evening following a 3-day visit to Rome.

'ARAFAT'S ENVOY TO YAR MEETS WITH AL-'ARASHI

JN061714Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Fakhr, envoy of brother leader Abu 'Ammar, met in San'a' this morning with Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, and handed him a message from brother Abu 'Ammar. They also reviewed the current situation in the region. President al-'Arashi asked brother Fakhr tc convey his greetings to brother Abu 'Ammar.

PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, ADN SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

JN051900Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 5 Jul 78 JN

[Text] An agreement of cooperation was signed today between the Palestinian news agency WAFA and the GDR news agency ADN. The agreement calls for an exchange of technical knowhow, visits, training of cadres and the dissemination of WAFA news bulletins throughout the world via ADN.

KUWAIT

COMOROS ISLANDS' ABDALLAH MOHAMED ARRIVES 5 JULY

LD051726Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Abdallah Mohamed, chief of government of the Comoros Islands, arrived in Kuwait on a visit at about 1700 today. An official welcome was given to the honorable guest at Kuwait International Airport and was headed by Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister.

Official Talks Begin

LD061840Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] Official talks between Kuwait and the Comoros Islands began this morning at the Government House. KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY has reported that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, prime minister, headed the Kuwaiti side in these talks while the other side was headed by Abdallah Mohamed, chief of government of the Comoros Islands.

KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY has carried a statement by the chief of government of the Comoros Islands following the conclusion of the talks. In it he explained that during his visit to Kuwait he will inform the brethren about conditions in the Comoros Islands and especially about the events since 13 May and about the political conditions there.

He went on to add that his talks with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, dealt with explaining the difficult conditions, especially economic ones, which the Comoros Islands are experiencing. The visiting chief of government expressed his country's profound gratitude to Kuwait for its positive stands vis-a-vis the Comoros Islands and for the backing it gave and is giving, such as its participation in various projects there. Abdallah Mohamed said: The Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development participated in important projects in the Comoros Islands including the building of roads and fisheries.

On the other hand, 'Abd al-Aziz Mahmud, minister of social affairs, stressed that the talks between Kuwait and the Comoros Islands took place in an atmosphere of fraternal affection and frankness. He said that His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, showed his complete understanding of everything the visiting prime minister put forward, and his highness demonstrated Kuwait's readiness to study the economic projects put forward by the Comoros Islands which will be beneficial for its people.

AS-SIYASAH REPORTS 'SECRET' OIL MEETING

LD061115Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Jul 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Riyadh--special dispatch--"Today it will be decided whether there will be a sudden increase in oil prices before the end of this year," according to well-placed oil sources in Riyadh. The sources revealed to AS-SIYASAH that a secret meeting is now being held including representatives from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran.

These sources said that an authorized Saudi oil official left the kingdom yesterday, Sunday, for Kuwait with the aim of holding meetings with authorized representatives from Kuwait and Iran in order to study the situation in the world oil market and the extent of the need to increase prices before the end of this year in order to compensate for the losses which OPEC countries have suffered and are still suffering because of the drop in the value of the dollar.

The sources in Riyadh said that the Kuwait tripartite meeting will enable a high-level study of the situation, particularly of the attitude of Saudi Arabia and Iran (the two sides that strongly favor freezing the prices). In light of the outcome of the meeting, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah will be able to form an official view of the general situation inside OPEC prior to the OPEC experts' meeting in London on 14 July to be held under his chairmanship. On the bases of the Kuwait and the experts' meetings, Shaykh Khalifah will be able to decide whether an extraordinary meeting of OPEC ministers could be successful.

On receiving this telephone dispatch from Riyadh yesterday, AS-SIYASAH tried to confirm it from local sources, but it was not possible to obtain a definite confirmation.

SAUDI ARABIA

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY REFUSES PDRY ENVOY, ALERTS FORCES

LD062224Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Jul 78 p 1 LD

[By Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] Riyadh--The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has refused to receive PDRY envoy Muhammad Salih Muti' who proposed to come to Riyadh in order to deliver a message to Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal.

AS-SIYASAH has learned from its own sources that the proposal was made to Saudi Arabia 3 days ago, but the Saudi Government turned it down and, in return, asked that the message be delivered to the Saudi ambassador in Aden. AS-SIYASAH has also learned that the Saudi Army has been placed in a state of alert in light of reports about the internal situation in Yemen and on the borders.

Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, defense and aviation minister, submitted to the cabinet at its meeting the day before yesterday a detailed report on the various stages that led to the recent developments in Yemen. Later, Amir Sultan, at the instructions of His Majesty King Khalid, visited some army units in order to explain the nature of current developments and the role of the armed forces in defending Islamic dogma and facing up to challenges resulting from this situation. Political sources considered Amir Sultan's speech as an official view reflecting strength, clarity and commitment to defending the Islamic territories and religion.

KING KHALID RECEIVES PLO ADVISER AL-HASAN

LD051746Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1536 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office in Al-Ma'dhar Palace at 1800 today Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2nd deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

KHALID STATEMENT ON AL-GHASHMI'S DEATH PUBLISHED

LD032235Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has stressed the Arab nation's need now, at any time and in any circumstance, for Arab solidarity, it being the only way to realize cooperation among brothers and to regain their usurped rights. This came in a statement his majesty made to the chief editor of AS-SIYASAH, which was published today.

His majesty said: There is a sincere desire to regain the atmosphere of Arab solidarity; progress on this path is being met with response from all sides. He added that if there is a probability of going to Geneva, as has been reported, is it not better for us to take one line instead of this division which is damaging our image and which might damage our rights?

Israel, he added, has not given on its part anything like the magnitude of President as-Sadat's initiative for peace. His majesty pointed out that Israel has proved that it does not want peace and is hindering all efforts being made in this respect.

In reply to a question about the recent events in Yemen and the death of the former Yemeni president, Ahmad al-Ghashmi, his majesty said: Any words describing this crime will not do justice to the gravity of the event itself; in order to show this it suffices to point out that Arab public reaction which condemned that painful event. His majesty pointed out that the kingdom's policy is based on noninterference in the affairs of others; but it is certainly concerned to protect its Moslem faith and is also concerned about anybody who tries to do harm to the Moslems' [word indistinct] and the (?sayings) of the Prophet.

INTERIOR MINISTER CALLS FOR PRO-ISLAMIC LEGISLATION

LD070920Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0650 GMT 7 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, called on responsible officials in Arab and Islamic states to establish local or regional legislation to combat subversive principles and the call for atheism and to protect the Islamic faith and the interests of Arab and Islamic peoples against those who wish them harm.

In a statement made to MENA in Riyadh, Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz emphasized that the responsibility of security in the Arab and Islamic world is great and difficult insofar as containing those apostates and agents and ruthlessly nipping their activities in the bud.

His royal highness said that his own proposal to set up an Arab Interpol to coordinate efforts and fight crime in Arab countries was well received and supported by responsible officials in certain sister countries. He expressed the hope that this scheme will be approved in the near future so that it will be a charter of action to foil the criminals, contain their activities and achieve stability for the children of the Arab nation, God willing.

Referring to cooperation between the kingdom and Britain in the field of security and to the recent visit paid by the British home secretary, his royal highness said that the two countries are cooperating in the field of security in order to benefit from the developments Britain has achieved in combating crime and in order to train people in the use of modern equipment.

FOREIGNERS, SAUDIS TO CARRY IDENTIFICATION PAPERS

LD062220Y Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 July--The Saudi Interior Ministry today called on all foreigners living in the kingdom to carry identification papers such as passports, identity cards, work permits and any other papers proving their lawful presence in the kingdom. It called on Saudi citizens to carry identity cards throughout the year.

YEMEN--PDRY

MUHAMMAD SAYS ALGERIA MEDIATING BETWEEN TWO YEMENS

JN070824Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT 7 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 July--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY prime minister and chairman of the Presidential Council, has stated that there are large military concentrations on the PDRY's borders and that the PDRY is expecting an act of aggression against it.

In an exclusive interview with the newspaper AS-SAFIR today, the chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council said that his country is ready to enter into a dialog with San'a' and Riyadh. He stated that Algeria is mediating between Aden and San'a' and that the PDRY has expressed its readiness to accept any Algerian proposals aimed at putting an end to tension between the two Yemens. He stressed that his country is for freedom of navigation in the Bab el-Mandeb in accordance with international conventions.

AR-RA'Y REPORTS ON CURRENT SITUATION IN PDRY

JN060748Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Jul 78 p 1 JN

[Exclusive to AR-RA'Y]

[Text] Cairo--The Cairo-based United National Front [Al-Jabha al-Wataniyah al-Muttahidah] has announced that it received an important report from Aden yesterday indicating that the number of victims during the recent coup there is estimated at 10,000.

The report also noted that 'Abdallah Salim, commander of the Salvation Army [Jaysh al-Inqadh], is currently resisting the ruling regime in Aden. The report said that, in addition to the 700-soldier battalion, a large number of militiamen belonging to 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il had sought refuge in San'a'. The report added that three pilots also defected to Ta'izz with their planes.

ARMY OFFICER REPORTEDLY DEFECTS TO MUSCAT

NC061158Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1132 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Muscat, 6 July--It was revealed here today that a PDRY Army officer recently defected to Muscat in a military transport vehicle driven by Ahmad Salih an-Naji.

The officer, 1st Lt Salah 'Abdallah at-Tahiri of the 5th Detachment, 5th Battalion, 26th Infantry Brigade, has stated that a large number of officers who supported the late president, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali have either been arrested or executed by firing squad.

In his statement, which was published here today by Muscat's English language newspaper, THE TIMES OF OMAN, the Yemeni officer also said that other officers in his battalion had told him that they intended to flee Aden, but that since then he has not heard anything about them.

He confirmed that 5,000 Cuban troops arrived in his country recently from Ethiopia and that the planes which bombed the Presidential Palace in Aden had been flown by Cuban pilots.

He also says that the Fourth and Sixth Provinces in the PDRY are still tense following the arrest of their governors and senior officers.

INTERIOR MINISTER LEAVES FOR LIBYA 6 JULY

LD061218Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Interior Minister Salih Muslih left Aden today for Libya. He told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY that he was carrying a letter from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad addressed to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi about recent events in the PDRY and on strengthening bilateral relations. He said that he would tell the Libyan leaders about the situation in this region and the efforts the PDRY is making to create good relations with states of the region and with Arab states. He said that whereas the PDRY was against war and fighting among the Yemeni people, it would permit no one to interfere in the internal affairs of the PDRY.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

LD062106Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo, chairman of the Presidential Council and prime minister, has issued a number of republican decrees. The first decree provides for the promotion of several brother officers.

Ahmad Nasir 'Antar is promoted from lieutenant colonel to colonel. The following are promoted from major to lieutenant colonel: Salim Abubakr bin Husaynun, Ahmad Salim Ubayd, Husayn Salih Dafiq, Husayn Ahmad Amjald and Abdallah Salih Muhammad.

The following are promoted from captain to major: Umar Ali al-Attas, Qasim Abd ar-Rabb Salih, Abdullah Ali Ilaywah, Muahammad Abdullah al-Kudaym, Muhammad Ahmad al-Bakhashi, Said Salim al-Arifi, Muhsin Khashshah, Muhammad Bakhit al-Ubidi, Awad Muhammad Jafar and Muhammad Ali al-Qayrahi.

The decree takes effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also issued a republican decree which provides for the promotion of several other brother officers.

Salih Muslih Qasim, is promoted from major to colonel. The following are promoted from captain to major: Muhammad Abdullah al-Batani, Ahmad Muhammad Qahtan, Mansur Abdullah and Salih Ahmad al-Bakhashi.

The decree takes effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammed also issued a republican decree which provides for the appointment of brother Muhammad Muhsin Muhammad as deputy minister of state security. The decree is to take effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

He also issued another republican decree on the appointment of brother Lt Col Ahmad Salim Ubayd as deputy chief of general staff of the armed forces. The decree, which revokes any previous appointment to this post, takes effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also issued a republican decree on the appointment of Maj Qasim Abd ar-Rabb Salih as deputy chief of general staff [as heard] of the armed forces. The decree is to take effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council issued a republican decree for the appointment of brother Maj Muhammad Ali al-Qayrahi as commander of the National Command of the People's Militia. The decree revokes any previous appointment to this post. It also takes effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council also issued a republican decree for the appointment of brother Maj Abdullah Ali Ilaywah as commander of the air force and air defense in the armed forces. The decree revokes any previous appointment to this post. It takes effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council, also issued a republican decree for the appointment of brother Capt Sulayman Nasir Muhammad Masud as director of the Political Department in the Ministry of Defense. The decree revokes any previous appointment to this post. It takes effect immediately and is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

TITLES OF MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARIES CHANGED

LD062124Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the olitburo and chairman of the Presidential Council, has promulgated a law creating the post of deputy minister.

The first article provides that the title "under secretary in the ministry" be replaced by "deputy minister" wherever it is mentioned in all laws and decrees.

The second article provides that this law shall take effect immediately. Article III provides that this law is to be published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

THIRD GOVERNORATE UPONF COMMITTEE MEETS

LD052152Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] The United Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] Organization Committee in the Third Governorate has concluded its extraordinary session by adopting several important decisions that deal with various aspects of political, party, economic and administrative issues. Brother Muhammad Salih Muti', member of the Politburo, member of the Presidential Council and foreign minister, participated in this session.

In handling political matters, the Third Governorate's committee emerged with a decision which emphasized the need to heighten security consciousness among the masses and disseminate the spirit of security among the countrymen following the recent incidents caused by the clique of conspiracy and opportunism led by Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, Ja'im Salih and Ali Salim Lawar and their corrupt elements in the governorate. They were struck down and their positions completely liquidated thanks to the firmness and the spirit of sacrifice of members of the organization and the military institutions of the revolution. The committee also emphasized the mobilizing of the masses to defend the homeland and revolution.

In handling party matters, numerous decisions were adopted which are conducive to correcting party conditions, purging opportunist, factional and hostile class elements and dismissing all opportunist elements which were behind the recent incidents and bringing them to trial and closing the doors of the organization and the Vanguard Party in the future against all elements that do not deserve the honor of membership in the organization.

In handling economic and administrative matters, numerous decisions were adopted which are conducive to correcting the administrative conditions in the state's economic and service sectors. The decisions took the motto: the right man for the right place; the application of financial regulations, decisive controls, and the calling to account of corrupt elements which misused power and tampered with state funds.

The Third Governorate's committee also discussed the Central Committee's circular on recent incidents. A program has been drawn up to circulate the document to members and candidate members in the provinces, to explain the facts mentioned in the circular to the masses and to reveal and prove the facts of the adventurous opportunist clique and what it did in the governorate.

FREEDOM RADIO NOTES RIFT IN RULING PARTY

JN061642Y South Yemen Freedom Radio [Clandestine] in Arabic to South Yemen 1245 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Station Talk]

[Text] Free brothers: In the wake of the treacherous act which the secretary of the criminal gang in Aden has committed against the late president, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, and his supporters, it has become absolutely clear that this act, which was directed against a leading party member, is only the first of a series of acts which 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il himself will be committing against many other party members, whether in the leadership or elsewhere.

This was confirmed by today's reports which say that there is a big ri t in the ranks of the ruling clique in Aden as a result of what happened to the late president, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, and the liquidation campaign which was immediately instigated at the hands of the murderer 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

Strangely enough, the ruling clique in Aden, represented by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, is urging its members to close their ranks against hostile forces inside and outside the country. This clique wants those whom it has harmed, deported, injured and accused to close their ranks against a so-called danger. But where is the real danger? What other danger do these people have to fear when they have suffered such a great deal from the traitors 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad?

This clique has disclaimed its own comrades. After striking at, deporting and liquidating these people, it is not warning them of hostile forces at home and abroad; it is as if these people have no self-respect. It is also as if these hostile forces want to take revenge on any member of the party. These are some of the methods used by the murdered 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

FREEDOM RADIO COMMENTS ON ARAB BOYCOTT OF PDRY RULERS

JN061615Y South Yemen Freedom Radio [Clandestine] in Arabic to South Yemen 1345 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The Saudi newspaper AR-RIYADH has reported that Syria and Iraq have informed the Arab League that they support the resolution adopted by the league council last week on freezing diplomatic relations with the PDRY.

With Iraqi and Syrian support for the Arab League resolution, the number of Arab countries boycotting the Aden government is now 19. This is a splendid picture of Arab unanimity and solidarity in assuming the responsibility to check aggression and repudiate the methods of plotting and crime used by Aden. A quorum has been achieved and the Aden government is now ostracized. This is legal and responsible. This is a fair punishment which the one Arab family is imposing on the reckless adolescent, 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

Did you expect Iraq to support the assassinations and acts of terrorism you were carrying out in Yemen? Did you expect Syria to bless the explosive diplomatic pouches you were sending to kill Yemeni leaders? Do you want the Arab states to support you when you are opening our lands to Russian and Cuban occupation? Do you expect them to support you when you have given Bab el-Mandeb and South Yemeni ports to the Russians and Cubans so they can build hostile bases from which to export revolutionary violence against our brothers in the peninsula and the gulf?

Undoubtedly, you hope to establish a new front of steadfastness and confrontation to carry out acts of sabotage against Yemen and neighboring countries. But even your closest friends have rejected your new plans and have adopted frank positions. Your only supporter is Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. But we have heard that he is busy these days with a new unity project with Chad and Malta. This means that you are alone and isolated.

YEMEN -- YAR

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARAB LEAGUE RESOLUTIONS

JN040540Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Minister of Information and Culture Ahmad Salim ar-Ru'ayni has described the Arab League Council's resolutions as positive. In a statement he made to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY yesterday, brother Ar-Ruiayni said that these resolutions have restored the confidence of the sons of the Arab nation in the Arab League. It is no wonder the ugly crime committed by the fascist clique in Aden against the life of the late martyr, Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, severely injured the feelings of the Yemeni people, provoked them and shocked world and Arab public opinion [words indistinct].

The minister of information and culture added that the Arab League resolutions represent the smallest steps that could have been taken against the rulers in Aden. By committing their abominable crime, the rulers in Aden have not harmed the YAR alone but also harmed the honor and dignity of the Yemeni people in both parts of the homeland. This is because the perpetrators identify themselves with the Arabs, while in reality they are agents and lackeys of foreign forces who are seeking to spread their domination and to implement schemes designed to subvert our Arabism and traditions and the principles of our true religion.

In conclusion, the minister of information and culture expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Arab League member states for their positive stand and for the Arab League's positive and fruitful resolutions.

FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIES TO ALGERIAN CABLE

JN061818Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The foreign minister, brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, has replied to the cable sent by Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Al-Asnaj said:

Dear brother Abdelaziz Bouteflika, foreign minister of the fraternal Algerian republic:

I have received your cable which describes the Arab League resolutions as contrary to unanimity. These resolutions concern the assassination of the head of a state which is a founding member of the Arab League. These resolutions are in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of the Arab League Charter.

The YAR desires to preserve its strong relations with its Algerian brothers, and for this reason expresses its utmost concern about the distorted information received by the Algerian leadership on the Yemeni situation. The YAR affirms that it does not wish to escalate the current situation. However, those who perpetrate the assassination of an Arab head of state must face a deterrent punishment, and for this reason, the Arab League resolutions are logical and responsible.

AL-'ARASHI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID

JN031324Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, chairman of the YAR Presidential Council, received in his office this morning Engineer Muhammad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister and minister of finance, following his return from the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, Al-Junayd handed brother al-'Arashi a written message from his brother, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in reply to the written message sent to his majesty by Al-'Arashi.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ISSUES STATEMENT AFTER MEETING

JN042111Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The brother chairman of the Presidential Council and the brother council members have received the committee appointed by the People's Constituent Assembly to meet with the brother chairman and members and to convey to them a copy of the statement issued by the assembly at its meeting this morning. The following is the text of the statement issued by the assembly:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate: The People's Constituent Assembly held its first meeting in the second period of its first ordinary session today, Tuesday, 4 July 1978. The assembly heard a report by the brother assembly member and interior minister on the security situation in the country in the wake of the criminal assassination of the pioneer of democracy, brother martyr the late Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and the commander in chief of the armed forces. This assassination occurred in a wanton and barbaric manner, showing disregard for the most fundamental principles of morality and international norms by the atheist puppet government in the southern part of the homeland--a government which has begun continuous military skirmishes in some peaceful villages on the border and which, prior to these skirmishes, distributed arms, ammunition and funds to subversive elements to carry out acts of violence and terrorize defenseless families and citizens.

While expressing its satisfaction with the measures being taken by the Presidential Council to maintain security and preserve the gains of the revolution and the republic throughout the country, the assembly would like to express its profound appreciation to the armed forces and the security forces for the brave and rational stand they adopted following the sorrowful incident--a stand which has deprived the elements of subversion and anarchy of the opportunity to achieve their designs and has enabled the people to devote themselves to their normal daily life completely reassured of their present and future.

The assembly would also like to commend our people's nobility for their self-restraint and patience during the ordeal of the assassination of the leader president and also for their splendid and enlightened solidarity with their political leadership represented by the Presidential Council.

The assembly would like to thank the Arab League for the positive role it has played since the incident, a role which was crowned by its decisive resolution condemning the savage and barbaric aggression and discarding the aggressors, considering them to be deviates from Arab principles, Islamic morals and human values.

The assembly would also like to express its appreciation for the unanimous Arab and international stand in denouncing the crime and its perpetrators.

The assembly appeals to fraternal Arab legislative bodies, international, friendly legislative bodies and all international organizations to condemn such barbaric and savage acts which are contrary to the most fundamental international laws and norms. The assembly hopes that these bodies will ask their governments to adopt the necessary deterrent measures to put an end to such rancorous criminal acts.

In conclusion, the assembly would like to assert its support for the firm positive measures being taken by the political leadership, represented by the Presidential Council, to preserve the security and safety of the country and the citizens. The assembly calls on the political leadership to take the necessary adequate steps to liquidate the dens of plotting and sabotage and to continue the development policy charted by the pioneer of democracy, brother martyr Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, may his soul rest in peace.

The assembly urges all sections of the noble Yemeni population to remain alert and vigilant regarding the plots and intrigues being hatched against its security, stability and belief and to steadfastly shield the great gains they have achieved through patience and dear, precious blood.

The assembly is fully confident that our brothers in the stricken southern part of our homeland, who are firmly resisting terrorism and liquidation, are capable of teaching the murderous gang and its supporters an unforgettable lesson.

And know that this is my path, the right one so follow it, and follow not other ways, for they will lead you away from His way. [Koranic verse]

GHALI DISCUSSES FORTHCOMING AFRICAN CONFERENCES

NC061822Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1744 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 July--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that during the meetings of the African Foreign Ministers Council, which begin in Khartoum tomorrow, Egyptian diplomacy will play a reconciliatory role aimed at the sound solution of African disputes within the OAU framework. He said that Egyptian diplomacy will also try to bring differing points of view closer so as to strengthen African unity and Arab-African cooperation.

In a statement made today on the occasion of his departure to Khartoum tonight to attend these meetings, Dr Ghali said that the conference will help strengthen Arab-African cooperation. To a proposal on the establishment of an African peace-keeping force, Dr Ghali said that Egypt believes that this subject is worth studying under one basic condition; namely, that this force should operate within the framework of the OAU.

Asked about the newly established Organization of the Nile Basin States, Ghali said: The organization is expected to meet in Kampala on 7 August to study the interests of the Nile Basin area. Asked about reports that Somalia intends to ask the African bloc at the conference to expel Cuba from the nonalined group and Egypt's opinion on this matter, Dr Ghali said: There is a group of African states which supports Somalia's stand and another African group which is against this view. As I have said, Egyptian diplomacy will be attempting to reconcile the differing points of view and to find a solution that would satisfy both sides and at the same time strengthen African unity and rectify the course of the nonalined policy.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL MEETS WITH LORD CARADON

NC061550Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 July--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with Lord Caradon, Britain's former delegate to the United Nations, whose name is linked with UN Resolution 242 on the Middle East crisis. The meeting was attended by Britain's ambassador to Cairo, Willie Morris. The discussions dealt with the developments of the situation in the area in light of President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative and the Egyptian proposals on the West Bank and Gaza Sector which were announced yesterday. During the meeting, Lord Caradon expressed his appreciation of the fundamental proposals which Egypt submitted and of the Egyptian peace efforts. Lord Caradon is paying a 2-day visit to Egypt.

PAPERS COMMENT ON PEACE PROPOSALS, LEBANON

NC070817Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 7 Jul 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH comments on the Egyptian peace plan and Israel's attitude toward it. The paper says that on the same day that U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis presented the text of the Egyptian Middle East peace proposals to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, an Israeli governmental committee decided to expand the work camp near Jerusalem and to turn it into a city to be called Ma'ale Adumim. Beginning in October, 1,000 apartments will be built in the city. Completion is expected by 1981.

The paper affirms that since President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Egypt has been extending a hand toward peace while Israel has been taking a step toward expansion. Israel has been meeting the peace efforts with further stalling and procrastination and with attempts to gain time to give a Jewish and Zionist character to the occupied Arab territories--including Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the peninsula--by building more settlements, camps and cities there.

The paper says it would be wrong for any state to allege that both the Egyptian and the Israeli sides are convinced of the need for peace and are seeking to achieve this in spite of all difficulties. The paper notes that such a statement ignores the real situation and the fact that Israel has been closing the door to peace, although it does not stop talking about its desire for peace.

The paper concludes its article by saying that the presentation of the new Egyptian peace proposals puts Israel's desire for peace to the test once again.

Commenting on the role of the Syrian Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon, AL-AHRAM says: The Syrian involvement in Lebanese events has increased during the recent clashes to such an extent that it leads one to wonder whether the role of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is to contain the bloody clashes between the conflicting Lebanese groups or to kindle them.

The paper adds: When the Arab deterrent forces were dispatched to Lebanon, the basic objective of these forces was to halt the clashes, resolve the controversies and contribute toward the creation of an atmosphere of security and stability so that a reasonable political solution to the complex situation in Lebanon might be found. The basic objective was not that these forces turn into a source of violence, destruction, killing of innocent people and indiscriminate shelling of cities as the Syrian forces are now doing.

The paper adds: While the other contingents participating in the Arab deterrent forces have abided by the rules so far, the Syrian forces have in the last few weeks assumed the task of destroying all hopes attached to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' success in restoring normal conditions in the country. The Syrian behavior has led President Sarkis to threaten to resign if the Syrian shelling of Beirut and its suburbs continues. If such a threat is implemented it would lead to serious consequences for which Syria alone will bear the responsibility.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying that the more serious point is that the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon lures Israel to interfere. Israel hinted at this by sending its planes over Beirut yesterday. The paper asks: Is this a Syrian invitation to Israel to interfere?

AL-AKHBAR ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MEETING IN LONDON

LD061804Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Jul 78 p 1 ID

[Musa Sabri article: "Why Should We Go to London?"]

[Text] Can the London talks between Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Moshe Dayan, which will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Vance, lead to any positive steps toward peace?

We can say no because previous Israeli attitudes have proved that Begin becomes frightened when he finds that a window has been opened through which peace can enter. Therefore, he immediately bolts it, and yet at the same time declares that peace is inevitable.

This fact has become common knowledge to the official United States, among the Congressional majority and to all the European governments. It has even become common knowledge among American and European Jews who had more than once, in open messages, advised him that his hardline attitude will not serve peace.

Therefore, why did we accept the invitation to go to London?

First, because the invitation to the London meeting has come from President Carter, who decided to send his foreign secretary to the meeting. So far Carter has not let down the cause of peace, and therefore we do not want to let Carter down.

Second, because we pursue a long-term policy, which Begin thinks he is adept at using so that we will lose our nerve. This is how he thinks of the Arabs, although he well knows that time is not on the side of Israel. But he wants to tire us with this provocative method so that we appear before the world to have squandered the chances of peace. This is also how he tried to exploit the incident of our breaking off the talks in Jerusalem when the Zionist forces waged a vicious campaign against us because we broke off the talks. The implication was that we blocked the road to peace despite the fact that Begin, Dayan and others made provocative statements before the Jerusalem talks stressing that they would be useless. But this is how Israel operates and this was exactly how the Israelis reacted to President as-Sadat's statements before the Second Army, when he declared that war would be inevitable if the peace talks failed. They raised a big storm throughout the world over these normal statements, alleging that they were proof that As-Sadat wants war and not peace. The statements were normal and logical, because if peace efforts fail, there is no alternative but war. But the Israelis are skilled in waging such campaigns which aim at making us lose our nerve. However, what disturbs them about As-Sadat is that he keeps his nerves cool, as if in a refrigerator.

Third, because we must put an end to Begin's prevarications so that the future U.S. role can be defined on the grounds that the United States is a partner in both war and peace, and not just a mediator between the two sides.

Yesterday Begin began--and so did Dayan--making statements in advance of the London meeting to the effect that Israel will not accept imposed conditions and that the Egyptian hardline stand does not encourage the success of such talks, as well as other statements whose aim is to defend themselves in advance and before the London meeting begins. They know well that they now stand alone; they stand on one side while the world, which denounces their attitude, stands on the other.

I believe that the forthcoming London talks will be the final act in the play of Israeli prevarications and, as a result, many stands will be determined.

The U.S. stand will be determined--the stand that is first committed to U.S. national interest in the achievement of peace and to the new good relations with the Arab area, as well as to the maintenance of the balance of power in the disturbed part of the world, where the cold war has begun to develop into a hot war, and the Soviet influence has begun to gain new positions in the African area.

The international stand will also be determined--the stand that is committed to clear resolutions calling for an end to the Middle East crisis, resolutions which are all in favor of the Arab side.

I would say that the ring is daily tightening around the Israeli Government since the opposition to Begin's policy has gained great popular support that could lead to political changes inside Israel.

But we will never lose control of our nerve and we will not go back on our long-term policy, because we stand on firm ground and enjoy the support of the world peace-loving forces that do not conceal their anger at Begin's policy and that see him only as an obstinate obstacle to peace.

AL-AKHBAR CALLS FOR STAND TO COUNTER SOVIETS

LD061118Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Jul 78 p 1 LD

[By Musa Sabri]

[Text] Can the decision to dismiss the PDRY from the Arab League be the answer to resist the serious Soviet designs against Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and the gulf states?

The simple answer is that the dismissal decision alone will be of no avail.

Dismissing the PDRY or imposing economic sanctions on it will not halt Soviet plans.

The positive and effective measure is to detach the PDRY and the other rejectionist states from the Soviet plan. This can be only achieved through a unified and declared stand by the countries against whom the plan is aimed, first by exposing the plan and then by laying down a new unified strategy to oppose it with all the means available.

The major point of weakness is the lack of economic integration between the Arab countries against which the Soviet plan is aimed. It is not logical that there should be millions [of acres] of arable land in Sudan while the Arab countries that have the means do not help Sudan in developing and planting these lands, that Sudan should continue to suffer an economic crisis and that the other Arab countries should continue to import a great part of their foodstuffs from the United States and Europe.

It is also illogical for Egypt to continue to suffer from debts, inflation, high prices and low wages while it is shouldering the main responsibility for resisting the communist influence and the cause of peace and while Arab cooperation to deal with this crisis is progressing at such a slow pace.

Soviet ambitions in the Arab area and Africa cannot be resisted by the assumption that the United States is the bulwark of such resistance. We must be well aware of the rules of the game between major powers. No one can help us as we can help ourselves.

This is clearly evident in the case of Egypt. Egypt had gotten rid of Soviet military presence and influence without first seeking the views of the United States and without prior agreement. But Egypt took such a decision because it is in its own interest and it expressed the will of the Egyptian people.

Therefore, the unified strategy of the Arab countries against the Soviet plan should be based on self-reliance, on accurate evaluation of the means of the Soviet Union in achieving its objectives and on plugging the loopholes which communism exploits in stirring unrest among the peoples. All this calls for devising an effective method of social reform and of reforming attitudes toward, and ways of, dealing with the toiling masses.

If some of the Arab countries, particularly the rejectionist states, have chosen to be tools of Soviet ambitions simply in order to give vent to their hatred for Egypt because of the leading role that history has imposed on it, and if these countries claim to be revolutionary and therefore declare direct and indirect war against Saudi Arabia and the gulf countries allegedly because they are reactionary states, then why should not the Arab countries which are the target of Soviet designs speak out clearly and put an end once and for all to this evil situation so that the Arab people come to know all the facts, are able to tell black from white and will recognize those who change colors.

We must bear in mind all these facts as we plan for the coming stage, a stage that abounds with dangers and evils and in which only frankness and the adoption of clear stands will be of avail, for silence involves great risks.

AL-AKHBAR ON STATEMENTS BY SAUDI, SOMALI OFFICIALS

LD061325Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 Jul 78 p 6 LD

[Editorial: "A Decision Is Not Enough"]

[Excerpts] Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Zaki Yamani has raised the question of a serious problem facing both the Arab and Western countries. He said that the Arabian Peninsula has now become the scene of a power struggle and that the Soviet Union is threatening oil sources in the Middle East and is trying to beseige the area in order to dictate its terms. He warned the Western countries that in such circumstances they will suffer from the stoppage of oil supplies.

At the same time the Somali president made a similar statement. He said that the Soviet Union has planned to seize the gulf states and Africa, in which case it will halt oil and raw material supplies and so paralyze the Western industrial states.

This simultaneous warning by the Saudi oil minister and the Somali president do not come from the void. Rather, it reflects a situation about which there is no longer any doubt. If the Western countries should be interested in resisting this situation because it represents a threat to their interests and threatens to paralyze their life, it is the duty of the Arab countries to devote themselves to confronting this plan with all their efforts and strength because the problem concerns them and the oil is theirs and the source of their wealth and power in achieving their interests with the West and the East.

The Arab League Council yesterday concluded its extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation in the PDRY and the assassination of Husayn al-Ghashmi and decided to freeze relations with the PDRY.

In fact, this decision is not enough to deal with the situation. The PDRY under present conditions does not care for, nor is it in any way interested in, such a decision because it is the Soviet agents who rule there with the power of Soviet, Cuban and East German arms, equipment and soldiers.

Indeed, such a decision is inadequate. The Arab countries must follow up the situation with all its implications with greater interest and further action, because the Soviet Union has long ago drawn up its plan and is today implementing it in an atmosphere of a race against time and doing so openly under the very eyes and ears of the entire world. The Arabs must act and move quickly before it is too late.

TELEPHONE CALL ARRANGED BETWEEN AS-SADAT, GISCARD

NC061901Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 July--The French presidential palace contacted President as-Sadat's office today to arrange for a telephone conversation between President as-Sadat and President Giscard d'Estaing before the latter leaves for the FRG to attend the EEC summit conference. The telephone conversation has been arranged to take place on Friday or Saturday in Vienna, in view of President Giscard's trip.

ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S KHALIL RETURNS FROM UK

NC060635Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2322 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 July--ASU Central Committee First Secretary Dr Mustafa Khalil returned to Cairo tonight following a 10-day visit to Britain.

KUWAIT AL-ANBA': AS-SADAT TO VISIT PRC 'SOON'

TA070919Y Paris AFP in English 0758 GMT 7 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Kuwait, July 7 (AFP)--Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will pay an official visit to China soon to strengthen relations and cooperation between the two countries, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reported today. Mr as-Sadat would be accompanied by a military and economic delegation, and would study the possibility of buying modern Chinese arms for the Egyptian Armed Forces, the paper said.

FOREIGN MINISTER KAMIL RECEIVES AMERICAN NEWSMEN

NC061508Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 6 July--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today received Washington POST columnist Rowland Evans. He also received an editor from the Washington STAR. The minister explained to the two journalists the developments in the Middle East, the intensive contacts which Egypt is carrying out, the Egyptian plan and Egypt's peace principles.

BENIN TRANSPORT MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

NC031919Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 3 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 3 July--Leopold Ahoveya, minister of transport of the People's Republic of Benin, arrived today in Cairo from Baghdad for a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, the Benin minister will hold discussions with the Egyptian officials in charge of transport and communications on cooperation between the two countries.

REPORTAGE CONTINUES ON SITUATION IN LEBANON

Reasons Behind Resignation Move

NC061714Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Informed sources have attributed President Ilyas Sarkis' resignation decision to two important reasons: the Syrian conditions which Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus brought with him from Damascus and which cannot possibly be accepted and the Arab deterrent forces' shelling of the residential areas in Beirut and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah with rockets for 5 days under the pretense of acting in the name of Lebanese legitimacy whereas the Lebanese authorities have no connection with this shelling.

Meanwhile, the meeting in B'abda Palace is still going on. The U.S. ambassador is carrying out contacts between Beirut and Damascus in order to have Syria withdraw its conditions. Other endeavours are being made by mediators with the Lebanese Front leaders to have the front issue a statement [words indistinct].

MENA Comments

NC061306Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Beirut, 6 July--The Lebanese Phalangist radio announced today that Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has told senior officials that he intends to resign.

Informed sources have told the MENA correspondent in Beirut that Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has been thinking about resigning since yesterday. The sources added that Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus told the Syrian officials when he was in Damascus yesterday that President Sarkis intended to resign but, according to these sources, this has not changed the views of the Syrian officials who insisted on their opinion regarding the way to resolve the problem and to deal with the developments in Lebanon.

It is known that Damascus wants the security plan in Lebanon to be repealed or amended to give the deterrent forces the right to enter all Lebanese areas.

MENA has also learned that efforts are now being exerted by Lebanese personalities to persuade President Sarkis to abandon his resignation idea on the one hand, and to persuade the Syrians to soften their position on the other.

Deterrent Forces Activity

NC061232Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Reports have reached some security quarters indicating that preparations are being made for an infiltration operation against the Lebanese on all the combat lines extending from At-Tayyunah, As'ad al'As'ad Street to Mar Mikhayil.

The Arab deterrent forces have reinforced their barriers in the Al-Hazimiyah area. It has been learned that the deterrent elements manning the Al-Jumhur barrier have been issued lists containing the names of about 150 of the area's youths. They are searching cars and examining identity cards.

The deterrent forces have intentionally cut off telephone contacts in Al-Hazimiyah area and are using the telephone exchange as a base for rocket launchers. Meanwhile, sniping operations have continued in the Jisr Bayrut-Al-Karahtinah area.

Southern Lebanese Protest

NC061221Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] The Lebanese in the central and eastern sectors of south Lebanon have declared a general strike in condemnation of the bombardment of their brothers' home in Beirut, Furn ash-Shubbak and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

The Canadian secretariat for external affairs has issued a statement which it conveyed to Lebanon protesting the shelling of the Canadian ambassador's residence in Beirut by Arab deterrent forces' rockets.

Further Report on Israeli Overflight

NC061542Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] At 1120 today, seven Israeli Phantom and Mirage aircraft entered Lebanese airspace and flew at a very low altitude all along the Lebanese coast. The planes broke the sound barrier twice over Beirut, particularly over the Sports City area, breaking windows in the area. Citizens hurried to nearby bomb shelters while ambulances rushed to remove a number of casualties.

It has been reported that the Arab deterrent forces' air defense fired shots in the air, making the citizens think that the Israeli planes were dropping bombs on military positions and concentrations.

Afterward, the Israeli Command announced that the planes had returned to Israel and had not carried out any bombings but had carried out low altitude reconnaissance flights over Beirut and the Lebanese coast.

Sham'un Appeals to French Public

NC061648Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un today addressed an appeal to the French public, pointing out that shelling and sniping are continuing and that Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Ash-Shayyah, As-Sayfi, Badaru and Furn ash-Shubbak are experiencing nights of real terror amid shelling and fire.

Former President Sham'un also pointed out that morale is high, adding: We are determined more than ever before to fight the battle of freedom and dignity to the end.

Security Situation 6 July

NC061532Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Since this morning the artillery and rocket shelling has ceased whereas sniper fire, with the aim of provoking the Lebanese, has continued to be directed against most roads which are under the control of some fortified positions.

Strong resentment has prevailed in Lebanese and foreign circles after the people and the foreign diplomatic corps had seen the destruction inflicted by the artillery last night on innocent people. The artillery shelling destroyed houses and caused some more casualties, totalling several hundreds in the space of 5 days.

In the meantime, citizens have stayed near bomb shelters because of the dangerous atmosphere and for fear that today's calm could last for a mere few hours. This happened yesterday, when the citizens were surprised by the mad, infernal shelling lasting 7 hours, during which 1,260 incendiary and high explosive shells fell on otherwise peaceful quarters.

Meanwhile, the French Government has expressed its extreme anxiety over the development of incidents in Lebanon. The [French] Foreign Ministry has summoned the Syrian, Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors and asked them to inform their governments of the need for the Syrians to change their behavior in Lebanon immediately.

Political Contacts Continuing

NC061736Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Speaker Kamil al-As'ad today held consultations with Prime Minister al-Huss. He then went to his office in Mansur Palace where he held a series of political contacts.

He first contacted Damascus and reviewed the current situation with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He then contacted the leaders of the parliamentary blocs. He also contacted Former Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies 'Adil 'Usayran, Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Majid Arslan, Bahij Taqiyy ad-Din, Deputy Melkon Ebligatyian, Zgharta Deputies Rene Mu'awwad and Father Sim'an ad-Duwayhi, Deputy Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rafi'I, the independent Maronites grouping, leader of the Zahlah and Western Abl-biqa' deputies bloc Joseph Skaf and Deputy Col Fu'ad Lahhud.

After these contacts, Speaker Kamil al-As'ad returned to the Presidential Palace at 1420 and stayed there until 1515. On leaving the palace, he said that the contacts are continuing and that there has been some serious consideration of things.

Palace Meeting 6 July

NC061727Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Continuing meetings have been held throughout the day today in the Republican Palace at B'abda. The leaders of the legislative and executive authorities were by the side of the president of the republic. Furthermore, the country's leaders were engaged in successive consultations with President Sarkis. All efforts centered today on the need to get the country out of its tribulation and to get through the present delicate phase by adopting a unified patriotic stand as well as solutions which would lead the country from an atmosphere of violence and clashes to an atmosphere of peace and stability. Such solutions would spare Lebanon a long phase of uncertainty and lead it to the shore of tranquillity and reassurance for the Lebanese people's life and future and Lebanon's future in general. Lebanon has never in the past agreed, as it now agrees, on one will: Namely, deliverance from the present state of affairs and all the concern, tension and ambiguity it involves.

The most prominent political consultations took place today between Beirut and Damascus. These consultations were conducted by Speaker Al-As'ad. There were other contacts which were held by Patriarch Khuraysh, former President Sulayman Franjiyah, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, and the doyen of the diplomatic corps, Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Bruniera, with President Sarkis.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker went twice to the palace, where he was received by the president of the republic at 1545. At 1300 today, the president met in the Republican Palace with Minister Butrus for 1 hour. At 1800 today, President Sarkis received the Saudi ambassador, Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir. Meanwhile, the deputies went one after the other to the Republican Palace this afternoon.

Attempts To Dissuade Sarkis

NC061706Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The political situation was delicate today. Furthermore, all the contacts were being held amid a cautious rigidity in the security domain and amid a political fear of the consequences resulting from the continuing deterioration of the situation in the country. An atmosphere of watchfulness prevailed in the country. Meanwhile, active political contacts were held and were centered in the Republican Palace this morning, where continuing consultations were held and were aimed at getting the country out of the crisis it is in.

Perhaps the most important event today was the meeting which took place in the palace, which gave rise to reports that President Ilyas Sarkis wanted to resign. Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Kamil al-As'ad commented on this meeting, describing it as serious and delicate. The speaker emerged from the palace to brief the deputies on the reality and details of what was happening and on President Sarkis' desire and determination to resign. Therefore, this subject assumed a broad national importance. The politicians, heads of blocs and deputies rushed to the palace, despite the security situation. They also contacted the Republican Palace to dissuade the president from carrying out his decision.

If the contacts and meetings held up to this time have achieved what Speaker al-As'ad has described as giving things serious consideration before taking such a step, then this subject is still casting a gloomy atmosphere on the country which, undoubtedly, is now at a fateful and historic juncture. There can be no doubt that the next few hours will be decisive ones in Lebanon's history.

Saudi Ambassador's Statement

NC061828Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] On leaving the Presidential Palace at 1950 today, the Saudi ambassador, Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, said: I returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at noon today after giving a complete picture of all developments in the Lebanese arena to the Saudi officials. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is holding intensive consultations and contacts with all Arab brothers to save the country. We implore God to grant us success. I am doing all I can as a friend and a lover of Lebanon. Regarding the reports about the resignation of His Excellency President Sarkis, Ambassador ash-Sha'ir said: We invoke God to spare Lebanon all that might impede the good march. I cannot say more now.

The French ambassador to Lebanon, Hubert Argod, former Minister Dr Ilyas Saba, Deputies Sim'an ad-Duwayhi and Rene Mu'awwad arrived successively at the Presidential Palace after 2000. Deputy Pierre Dakkash arrived at 1845.

Despite the difficulty in telephone communications, many political and religious leaders have contacted the Presidential Palace to appeal to His Excellency President Sarkis not to resign under these fateful conditions through which Lebanon is passing. The most prominent persons who contacted the palace were former President Sulayman Franjiyah and Pierre al-Jumayyil.

Syria, France, Britain Entreat Sarkis

NC062020Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis had a telephone call tonight from President Hafiz al-Asad during which the Syrian president expressed his wish that President Sarkis continue to carry out his presidential responsibilities. He also expressed Syria's readiness to give every kind of support to Lebanon.

President Sarkis also received the French ambassador, Hubert Argod, who conveyed the French Government's wish that he should not resign. He also expressed France's readiness to give any kind of support to Lebanon in these circumstances.

President Sarkis had a telephone call from the British ambassador, Peter Wakefield. The ambassador conveyed his government's wish that he should not resign.

This afternoon, President Sarkis received the U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker who handed his excellency a written message from Washington.

Deterrent Forces Disobeyed Sarkis

NC062002Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 6 Jul 78 NC

[Text] [passage indistinct] the determination of Syria to support the legal authority and act in the interests of all the Lebanese, President Sarkis told his senior aides that he does not accept being a commander in name only of the Arab deterrent forces, which carry out actions unknown to him or at least which he has not ordered. The Riyadh and Cairo conferences considered him as the commander of these [one word indistinct] forces. President Sarkis also said that the Syrian conditions are neither logical nor acceptable because they [words indistinct] the president of the republic to act within the framework of conditions which are imposed on him without expressing an opinion about or having knowledge of them.

President Sarkis told the Syrian side through Minister Butrus that the question of disarmament is the demand of every citizen who wants security. But how could the sons of the eastern area be divested of their arms at a time when the Arab deterrent forces do not obey the orders which he gave for the implementation of the Shtawrah Agreement, which provides for subjecting the Palestinian camps to the authority of the Lebanese law and for linking the Palestinian armed presence to the previously concluded agreements, foremost of which are the Cairo Agreement and the Melkart Protocol.

It appears that during his discussions with President al-Asad and Minister Khaddam, minister Butrus hinted that President Sarkis was disgusted with the situation and that he wished to resign. Minister Butrus sensed a lukewarm feeling by the Syrian side toward the [one word indistinct] he submitted. It has been reiterated that Syrian Minister Khaddam stated that Syria will have no (?difficulty) in finding another president.

Phalangist Activities North of Beirut

JN061834Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 July--An INA correspondent in northern Lebanon reports that Phalangist military concentrations are now standing in confrontation with the deterrent forces by the 'Amshit radio station near the city of Jubayl, 35 km north of Beirut.

The correspondent says that Phalangist armed men may try to occupy the radio station which is considered the window of Beirut Radio to the world. This radio station was in the hands of the rightist forces during the 2-year war. Quoting arrivals from the Juniyah area north of Beirut, the INA correspondent says that all the main bridges on the coastal road between Beirut and al-Batrun have been planted with mines by the rightist forces as a precaution against any possible advance by the deterrent forces toward the town of Juniyah.

Security Station Morning 7 July

NC070656Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 7 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] The eastern area of Beirut and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and its suburbs spent a quiet and cautious night. For 24 hours, that is from yesterday morning until this morning, there has been no shelling, but there has been some scattered and intermittent shooting.

A number of refugee families escaping from the Syrian artillery shelling arrived in Cyprus by sea last night.

Rightist Envoy To Washington

JN070812Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 7 July--News reports today reveal that the rightist Lebanese Front has dispatched a special envoy to the United States for consultations with White House and State Department officials on developments in Lebanon.

Quoting rightist sources, the AN-NAHAR newspaper said that the contacts which began 2 days ago in Washington have led to encouraging results promising fundamental changes.

Sarkis Still Intent on Resigning

NC070837Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Government officials and political and religious leaders have been arriving at the Presidential Palace in B'abda since the morning to affirm their full support for His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis and to dissuade him from submitting his resignation upon which he is still insisting.

President Sarkis' insistence on his stand has been the object of high-level Lebanese, Arab and international efforts to dissuade him from submitting his resignation. These efforts have been stepped up since the morning.

Palace Activities 7 July

NC071255Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 7 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Local, Arab and international pressures are intensifying at present due to fear of what the president's resignation may entail in the present circumstances.

With regard to the international, U.S. and European contacts, some Syrian circles have expressed their readiness to reconsider their conditions and actions in Lebanon. Their attitudes have been conveyed to President Sarkis, but it does not appear that these attitudes moved him much because he wants complete authority, free from any pressure, and no actions except under orders of the president of the state of Lebanon and the legitimate Lebanese authority.

Current diplomatic, local and foreign attempts are continuing. Religious personalities, including Abbot Sharbil Qassis and Imam Musa as-Sadr, as well as Chamber Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, Prime Minister al-Huss, the ministers, the deputies and political and social personalities visited the palace today.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and the Presidential Palace have been in contact following a contact between former president Camille Sham'un and Shaykh al-Jumayyil this morning.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker was in the forefront of the diplomats visiting the palace today. He declined comment on the president's resignation, saying only: I reviewed the situation in detail with Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

The FRG ambassador explained that he, in his capacity as representative of the group of Nine European states, conveyed to the president of the republic the decision which the group adopted at an emergency meeting last night to the effect that the president's resignation could create a danger that would reflect on the general situation not only in Lebanon but also on peace in the Middle East. The FRG ambassador said that the nine states have adopted a strong, clear and specific decision expressing their interest in the development of the situation in Lebanon and the area.

Abbot Sharbil Qassis, after he and his delegation of the Order of Maronite Monks had met with President Sarkis, made a statement in which he expressed hope that others will not take shortcuts to achieve objectives that are against the interests of all the Lebanese and the area in general.

After meeting with President Sarkis, Imam Musa as-Sadr said he had asked the president not to resign. He added that the step taken by the president is tantamount to a desire to clarify the bitter facts to all the Lebanese, Arab and international sides. This step could result in the birth of a new Lebanon.

Many political, parliamentary, information and administrative personalities, as well as the army commander, the command staff, the director general of Public Security, the British Ambassador, Chamber Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and his bloc of deputies are all still in the palace.

Chamber Meeting Called

NC071241Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 7 Jul 78 NC

[Text] A short time ago, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad sent out invitations to the deputies to gather at his home in Al-Hazimiyah tomorrow morning. The purpose of the meeting will be to consult on the current delicate situation in order to adopt a suitable stand on the resignation of the president of the republic and on the artillery and rocket shelling operations carried out by the Arab deterrent forces against residential areas in Ashrafiyah and its suburbs and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah.

AMMAN'S AR-RA'Y INTERVIEWS PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL

JN060719Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Jul 78 p 8 JN

[AR-RA'Y dispatch: "Interview with Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the Phalangist Party"--date not given]

[Excerpts] Beirut--[Question] What do you think of the deterrent forces?

[Answer] The deterrent forces came with our consent. You know that the country was devastated and that the killing was massive. People used to give us only advice, and the only people who put an end to the massacre were the Syrians.

[Question] What is your stand toward legitimacy in Lebanon?

[Answer] This is our authority and I am Lebanese. We had the controlling hand in bringing President Ilyas Sarkis to power. We were the only side who supported legitimacy. We worked for it. We are now helping the Lebanese state to a great extent. It is our state.

[Question] What about the domination of the Military Command in the Phalangist Party over the Political Bureau?

[Answer] If this were true, there would be no Phalangists. Only self-restraint gave strength to the Phalangists. I can say with pride and modesty that the Phalangist Party is one of the best parties in the Arab world.

[Question] What about the Lebanese Army? Is it a Phalangist Army?

[Answer] All your questions are unfair. What do you mean by these questions? (correspondent's note: Al-Jumayyil answered friendly and calmly) The army which does not belong to the state is not an army. Every Lebanese force trying to replace the army should be in harmony with Lebanon's objectives, security and stability. Had it not been for our party which replaced the Lebanese Army during the war, Lebanon would have been wiped out. Nevertheless, we do not accept the proposition that anybody should be stronger than the state.

[Question] What is the solution that could rescue Lebanon from its present status and from its long war?

[Answer] So long as there are 600,000 Palestinians in an area of 10,000 square kms--in addition to 3 million other people--matters will never ease. Lebanon will not be able to absorb this number of people and this Palestinian chaos which is caused by five or six organizations, each with its own ideology.

[Question] Have you contacted the organizations' leaders in Lebanon? Have you explained this point of view to them?

[Answer] We have in fact held contacts with certain Palestinian leaders in an attempt to bring Lebanon out of its painful situation.

[Question] What is your opinion about some Phalangists such as Sa'd Haddad and Sami Shidyaq and about their cooperation with the Israeli enemy?

[Answer] I refuse to answer this question. The mere adoption of a defensive position by mean would mean it is true. So please do not ask this question.

SYRIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON, GOLAN REPORTED ON FULL ALERT

TA071144Y Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 7 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, 7 July (AFP)--Syrian planes and anti-aircraft batteries have been placed on a maximum state of alert following yesterday's overflight of Beirut by Israeli fighter-bombers, the newspaper THE MIDDLE EAST REPORTER said today quoting a diplomatic source. The newspaper said Syrian front line troops on the Golan had also been placed on a war footing.

AL-ASAD'S ENVOY ARRIVES IN ZGHARTA TO MELT FRANJIYAH

JN061856Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 6 July--Col Muhammad al-Khuli, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's envoy, arrived in Zgharta, northern Lebanon, today to meet former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah. No official information has been available on Al-Khuli's mission or the topics he will discuss with Franjiyah. Informed sources, however, say that Al-Khuli's mission is connected with the current situation in Lebanon and with President Ilyas Sarkis' desire to resign.

PRESIDENT ASKS LEBANON'S SARKIS NOT TO RESIGN

JN071255Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--During their telephone conversation yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad and His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis discussed the circumstances Lebanon is passing through. President al-Asad asked him not to resign under these conditions, which require patience. He stressed the need for all of us to continue to seek to put an end to these events. This is not impossible if people use reason.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CABLE FROM U.S. SENATOR ABOUREZK

JN061418Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from U.S. Senator James Abourezk, who is of Lebanese descent. The senator expressed his full understanding of the burden shouldered by Syria as a protector of peace in Lebanon, especially in view of the continuous threats from the provocations of Israel and the private militias in Lebanon. Abourezk said that these militias and Israel are allied in Lebanon and are the cause of the difficulties which the deterrent forces are encountering. He expressed his appreciation of President al-Asad's endeavors to ease the situation in the areas where the militias are violating the truce.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST LEADERS SUPPORT SYRIAN ROLE

JN061815Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Lebanese personalities and parties continue to condemn the plans of the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties to abolish legality in Lebanon and prevent the legitimate authorities from establishing their control over all of Lebanon.

Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in Lebanon, has affirmed that Syria has a special role to play in Lebanon. In a statement he made yesterday, Junblatt said that the security of Syria is linked with the security of Lebanon because of their historical bonds and their common confrontation today of the increasing Zionist influence.

Junblatt also asserted that the continued existence of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon is an urgent necessity until the legitimate authorities and the Lebanese Government are able to build the Lebanese security forces. Junblatt added: Those who demand the withdrawal of the Arab deterrent forces today seek a renewal of hostilities.

Junblatt condemned the current attempt by certain factions to partition Lebanon and described this as an extension of the Israeli policy to dismember Lebanon.

Junblatt asserted that the PSP will not accept the dismemberment of Lebanon and the creation of sectarian entities. He said: Those who have become involved in the partition plan insist on escalating the fighting in Lebanon, discarding the national aspirations of the Lebanese people, imposing fascist domination on peaceful areas of Lebanon and carrying out the physical annihilation of anyone who objects to this plan. The Ihdin massacre is the best proof of this policy.

Junblatt said the escalation of fighting has shown that these factions are cooperating with the Zionist enemy in the south and elsewhere, thus threatening Lebanon's Arab identity and proposing a solution similar to the Zionist plan.

Junblatt defended Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and independence. Lebanon, he said, is an Arab country, and this is a fact which cannot be denied or obliterated.

The Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon has called upon all Lebanese forces which believe in the unity of Lebanon--its land and people--to close their ranks in one national front to confront the fascist onslaught and to bring down the Phalangist and Sham'unist partition forces.

Comrade 'Abdallah ash-Shahhal, assistant regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization, in a statement following a meeting of the regional leadership which met in Beirut today to discuss the current developments in Lebanon, said: The onslaught begun by the Phalangist and National Liberal parties categorically shows that the new plot is part of the chain of plots being implemented by the imperialist and Zionist forces and their capitulationist ally, As-Sadat, against the Arab revolutionary forces, who reject the capitulation plan. These revolutionary forces are headed by Al-Asad's Syria.

Comrade Ash-Shahhal condemned the provocations of the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs against the Arab deterrent forces and said: The armed provocations against the Arab deterrent forces to prevent them from carrying out their task of maintaining security and stability show to the Lebanese and the whole world that the fascist and racist elements have begun implementing partition and establishing their sectarian domination over some parts of Lebanon.

Comrade Ash-Shahhal called upon all Lebanese to support the Arab deterrent forces in their national task in Lebanon.

The Political Bureau of the Union of the People's Working Forces in Lebanon also condemned the continuous escalation of the fighting by the Israeli pockets inside the Lebanese front against the unity of Lebanon and the Arab deterrent forces. Lawyer Hasan Matar, member of the Political Bureau of the union, said in a statement today that this escalation reveals the intentions of those forces to partition Lebanon. These forces are closely cooperating with Israel to explode the situation and dismember Lebanon.

Lawyer Matar affirmed the need to protect the unity of Lebanon and called for the solidarity of all forces to confront the conspiratorial plans. Matar praised the role of the Arab deterrent forces in preventing partition and defending Lebanon's unity and security. He said: Every act of provocation against the Arab deterrent forces serves Israel and its partition plans and is directed against Lebanon and its stability.

In Jordan, the press was unanimous in condemning the criminal attempts of the Phalangist and National Liberal Parties to disturb the security and explode the situation in Lebanon. The newspaper AKHBAR AL-USBU' condemned the many crimes committed by the Phalangist and National Liberal elements and said: These factions, which are now known for their overt and covert links with Israel and its allies, are trying to exploit the great sacrifices made by Syria in order to achieve their objective of partitioning Lebanon and setting up mini-states to serve Israel's designs and objectives. The paper expressed its belief that Syria, which has made many sacrifices throughout its history for the sake of Arab national issues, will continue its national struggle line, despite its sacrifices, in order to finally foil the plot against its security and the security of Lebanon and the Arab nation. AKHBAR AL-USBU' concluded by calling upon the Arab nation to give full support to Syria to foil the plot.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RECEIVES PRC DELEGATION

JN052030Y Damascus Domestic Service 1915 GMT 5 Jul 78 JN

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud Hadid received this evening the PRC National People's Congress delegation headed by (Chi Peng-fei), Chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress [title as received].

Having welcomed the head and members of the guest delegation, Hadid praised the PRC's stand in support of the Arabs and their just issues. He said that Syria has declared its clear policy through President Hafiz al-Asad. We support a just peace based on complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied land and the return of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their state on the soil of their homeland. Referring to As-Sadat's capitulationist initiative, Hadid stressed that it harmed the Arab issue, disrupted Arab solidarity and destroyed the peace efforts. He said that our people want a just peace but not the surrender which Israel and the United States are (?imposing).

The head of the PRC delegation then spoke. He praised Syria's courageous stand. He stressed the importance of developing relations between the two friendly countries.

Talks Begin

JN070551Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] The first session of official Syrian-Chinese talks was held this evening [6 July]. The Syrian side was headed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, while the Chinese side was headed by Chi Peng-fei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress. During the meeting a review was held of the international situation and the situation in Southeast Asia.

VARIOUS SOURCES REACT TO SITUATION IN LEBANON

Ben-Elisar Comments

TA061623Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] We now move on to the remarks by the director general of the prime minister's office, Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, who told our correspondent, Moshe Hakohen, the reaction of the Cabinet of Israel to what is occurring in Lebanon. [begin recording]

[Ben-Elisar] The Cabinet of Israel is watching with great seriousness and very closely what is occurring in Lebanon. It is true that the issue is a massacre of the civilian population, a massacre being carried out by Syrian forces with the world standing silent. It is worth our paying attention to this important point. There is no doubt that it is particularly possible to learn or to compare the murder being committed by Arabs against Arabs--and when the reference is to a relatively weak and small group of Christians and without, I would even use the word reservations of conscience, but the Syrians are very far away from these, but without any fear they are annihilating a people. [sentence as heard]

[Question] This morning air force aircraft overflew Beirut. This has been confirmed by the IDF spokesman. In Beirut it was interpreted as an Israeli threat to intervene with force if what the Syrians are doing to the Christians in Beirut continues. Is one of the possibilities Israel is considering, if the situation in Beirut continues, to intervene with force?

[Answer] Our aircraft did not go there for a short tour over Beirut.

[Question] Could you say what we are considering in order to try to stop what is occurring in Lebanon?

[Answer] I think that wisdom demands that we leave the cabinet decisions and also its debates on this issue concealed at this stage.

[Question] Is Israel holding contacts in an attempt to warn other countries in the West, such as the United States, with regard to what is occurring?

[Answer] Israel is certainly holding contacts with other countries on this issue.

[Question] Is the Syrian activity in Lebanon, even this limited activity, the attempt to break the Christians' strength, creating a risk from our point of view that the Syrians will try to move their forces southward, to take control over southern Lebanon as an additional stage? Are we acting to prevent such a situation?

[Answer] As far as I know this Syrian action is definitely a threat to the situation in the Middle East.

[Question] Particularly to Israel?

[Answer] We are not afraid of the Syrians, but the reference here is definitely to a Syrian action which violates the calm in the Middle East.

[Question] Does this have a direct effect on the situation in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] Of course it has an effect, it may also affect southern Lebanon.

[Question] We are deployed against such an effect?

[Answer] We are prepared for any event. [end recording]

Defense Minister Comments

TA061553Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] We have just received from our correspondent the defense minister's remarks on the matter of Lebanon. Israel regards with gravity what is occurring in Lebanon and hopes that Lebanon's image and its security foundations will not change, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said, referring to what is happening in Beirut. Weizman talked with military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi less than an hour ago. [begin recording]

[Weizman] We regard this with gravity. First and foremost, I hope that it will not happen, as you can imagine, that it will change completely. The Syrian Army has been in Lebanon for a long time and I still hope that there will not be a complete control over Lebanon. If there is, this will definitely, as you said, change Lebanon's image and security foundations and naturally affect us.

['Abadi] What is happening to a million Christians in Lebanon, the defense minister said, is [word indistinct] for us, particularly as the events are taking place in the midst of negotiations. Lebanon's becoming a country controlled by Syria would lead to a substantive change in Israel's security foundations. Israel would be forced to draw conclusions and to pay attention to matters. Anybody who has promises and guarantees, the defense minister said, will have to reply to many questions in the negotiations with us. He added that our views have been transmitted to the Syrians. The minister refused to detail the objective of today's air force overflight of Lebanon. [end recording]

Military Correspondent's Views

TA062018Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Our military correspondent, 'Amiram Nir, reports on the military dimensions of the Syrian action in Lebanon, and their effect on Israel's security and reactions to them:

Senior Israeli elements are saying that after the fall of the quarter of a million Christians in Beirut, no force will remain in Lebanon that can prevent its becoming a Syrian-Palestinian country and a base for broad military action against Israel's most vulnerable border, the northern one. For Israel's security this would be strategic damage of the first degree.

Within a few days the Syrian force in the Beirut area will be almost doubled. Units of infantry, tanks and artillery will stream from the areas of Sidon and Tripoli in Lebanon and for the first time, appreciable reinforcements have also arrived from Syria. Currently surrounding the Christians in Beirut are more than 200 T-62 tanks, more than 300 artillery positions, including missile launchers, Katyushas and (?203-mm guns), which are the heaviest in the Middle East, and more than 20,000 soldiers, who comprise half of the Syrian force in Lebanon today. The Christians to date have suffered about 400 killed and more than 1,000 wounded. The main effort of the few unorganized and unequipped fighters in this area, which is encircled by the three Syrian rings, their main effort is to try to prevent the Syrians from penetrating inward within the quarters, quarters which are surrounded by Syrian troops in the closest contact.

The results of this Christian effort and the Syrian losses illustrate the sad balance of forces in the battles of the last few days: 20 or 30 Syrian dead, several dozen wounded.

Israel, which is the only political element being harmed by the situation, the main one harmed by the situation, and the only element which has committed itself in public to the existence of the Christians in Lebanon, Israel has in recent days been faced with a serious dilemma. The Israeli possibilities for action focus on three planes: diplomatic activity, deterrent activity and military action. At the beginning of the week Israel opened with diplomatic reaction. The prime minister asked U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale for immediate intervention. Yesterday, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said to Ambassador Lewis that what is happening in Beirut is becoming a direct security problem for the State of Israel, with all that this involves. Public warnings today from senior elements in Israel which were openly directed at Damascus and the seven air force Kfir aircraft flying very low over Beirut in fact symbolized the shift to the Israeli deterrent approach. The sonic booms were intended to encourage the Christians but, first and foremost, to let the Syrians, who do not have a missile umbrella within Lebanon, know that Israel has a long enough arm to hit them.

Intelligence Chief on Situation

TA061640Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Less than an hour ago the head of the Intelligence Branch, Maj Gen Shelomo Gazit, held a press conference with foreign correspondents on the situation in Lebanon. Our correspondent reports on Major General Gazit's remarks:

At the press conference for foreign correspondents held less than an hour ago, the head of the Intelligence Branch, Maj Gen Shelomo Gazit, expressed Israel's dissatisfaction with the Syrians' action in Lebanon. Syria, the major general said, is pitilessly shelling the Christian quarters in Beirut in order to destroy any military capability of opposition by the Christians there. Referring to the flights by air force aircraft over Bierut this morning, Major General Gazit said: [begin recording]

[Gazit--in English] Well, we do circulate over Lebanon from time to time and we just wanted to know a little bit better and closer what is going on. I think that our presence in Beirut this morning boosted a little bit the very low morale of the Christian circles in Beirut. [end recording]

Major General Gazit dwelt on the projections for Israel of the situation in Beirut and the Syrians' actions there. [begin recording]

[Gazit--in English] Lebanon is very close by. Whatever happens in Lebanon in the near future is very much of our concern. A strong Syrian presence in Lebanon is not only related to what is going on in Beirut; it will have and does have repercussions on southern Lebanon, too, and we must be concerned about that. [end recording]

More on Press Conference

TA061641Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Intelligence Branch, Maj Gen Shelomo Gazit, said that, in his estimation, the Syrians' main objective in the Beirut action is to destroy any military potential of the Christians, to strangle all remaining opposition, to impose a pax Damascus on Lebanon and to create a vacuum which the Syrians will be able to fill.

The current development may turn Lebanon into a confrontation country and this will affect our considerations.

At a meeting with foreign correspondents in Tel Aviv, Major General Gazit said that the Syrians are not proposing a cease-fire to the Christians in Beirut. They are simply continuing, in a way which is incomparably cynical, with methodical military destruction. He said that Syrian control over Lebanon, both in the north and the south, is definitely a concern of Israel. The head of the Intelligence Branch estimated that the encircled Christian quarters will be able to hold on only for a few more days, maybe even for only a few more hours. He reported that the Syrians have concentrated in Beirut nearly three brigades, an armored infantry corps, a tank brigade, six commando battalions, more than 200 tanks and more than 100 cannons of various sizes.

IDF Reinforces Northern Border

TA070517Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports that the IDF has taken a series of military steps along the border both for security reasons and to warn the Syrians and make it clear to them how severly Israel regards their activity in Lebanon. The IDF has carried out a limited reinforcement of its forces along the northern border.

Our correspondent adds that the activity in Beirut has, so far, not influenced the situation in southern Lebanon, but that military elements are not ruling out the possibility that the situation might deteriorate in that area. The main fear is that the terrorists may attempt to take advantage of the situation in order to infiltrate further south toward the Israeli border.

Begin Comments on Situation

TA070625Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Jul 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] At last night's dinner in honor of Rabbi Alexander Schindler, who until recently served as chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organizations, Prime Minister Menahem Begin commented on events in Lebanon and on the Egyptian and Israeli peace plans. Our correspondent has excerpts from the prime minister's remarks. [begin recording]

Last night, the prime minister made a reserved statement concerning events in Lebanon. He said:

[Begin--in English] Now we can see from events in an Arab country what could have happened to us--or what could happen to us--under certain circumstances. We hope soon there will be a cease-fire in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] In the last few days we were greatly concerned over the merciless massacre in Lebanon. Imagine a moment of weakness in which we would have left our citizens within shooting range of a potential enemy. What would have happened to them then?

Referring to the peace process in the area, the prime minister said:

[Begin--in English] The peace-making process is very dear to us. We would not like to lose even an iota of a chance. So let us rather keep our peace, now.

[Correspondent] Let the two plans--the Egyptian and the Israeli--provide the basis for negotiations, the prime minister days to the United States. And let the two parties and public opinion discuss these plans. [end recording]

No Massive Intervention Planned

TA070742Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] Knowledgeable observers are saying that, despite the gravity with which Israel regards the matter, it is not to be assumed that Israel is at this stage planning to intervene with massive strength to save the Christians in Beirut. The demonstration flight should be seen as a warning to the Syrians not to extend the fighting to the south, lest the Syrians also threaten the Christian villages near the border.

The IDF spokesman issued only an indirect statement about the patrol flight. The announcement emphasized that the aircraft did not attack. In contrast to the past, a sentence was added to the announcement which had in it a prior apology, saying that the planes which flew over Lebanon "were not U.S. models." To a question as to whether these were planes with U.S. engines, the spokesman did not reply. On the other hand, Lebanese sources said that they were Kfir aircraft.

HERUT LEADER WANTS LEBANON-ISRAEL DEFENSE PACT

TA070916Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Herut Movement executive, Avraham Shechterman, has called on Lebanon's leaders to sign a peace agreement and a defense pact with Israel. In his opinion, such an agreement will calm everyone in Lebanon and will constitute the first step toward prosperity in the region. He spoke in Qiryat Bialik.

GUSH EMUNIM REACTION TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL REPORTED

TA061747Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] As-Sadat's peace program is a form of gall and vulgarity, the reply to which should be mass settlement in Judaea and Samaria. This was said today by Hanan Porat, one of the heads of Gush Emunim, at a press conference the Gush convened in Jerusalem. At the press conference the heads of the Gush presented a new master plan for settlement in Judaea and Samaria up to the end of the century and announced that they will open a struggle against the cabinet next week because of the way it has been dealing with the Gush settlements in Judaea and Samaria. Correspondent Mikha'el Maymon has excerpts of Hanan Porat's remarks at the press conference: [begin recording]

[Porat] We are proposing closing the option of negotiations over Judaea and Samaria by turning them into an integral part of the State of Israel not only by declarations, but through acts of settlement. [end recording]

[Maymon] This is the advice Hanan Porat is giving the Cabinet of Israel in view of the dead end, as he put it, into which the negotiations with Egypt have landed. [begin recording]

[Porat] As-Sadat's moderate, as it were, peace program which has just been issued, which speaks of a retreat from all of Judaea and Samaria and their transfer to the Arabs in two stages, first to Jordan and then to the Palestinians, which speaks of the repartition of Jerusalem, which speaks of the evacuation of the settlements--I do not know how it is possible to regard it without describing it in one simple word: gall. And vulgarity. [end recording]

[Maymon] The timing of the presentation of the Gush Emunim master plan for settlement in Judaea and Samaria was not at first connected with As-Sadat's peace program, but when it was published, the leaders of Gush Emunim felt even more strongly that this is the suitable reply to As-Sadat's proposals. The heads of the Gush will propose their program to the cabinet and they hope that it will be an important part of the cabinet's settlement plan for Judaea and Samaria. The program's objective is to create, by the end of the century, a majority of 1.25 million Jews in Judaea, Samaria and Jerusalem. According to the demographic forecast involved in the master plan, in this period it will be possible to reach a majority of 5.5 million Jews in Eretz Yisra'el as against 2.5 million Arabs. As a basis for their forecast, the Gush spokesmen point at the continuing and firm trend toward a reduction in the numbers of Arabs within the sphere of Eretz Yisra'el. This trend takes its main expression in Judaea and Samaria and results, according to them, from two reasons: one, the lower natural increase in the population in Judaea and Samaria in comparison with the Arab and Jewish populations within the green line; and the other, the emigration of many inhabitants from the area to Arab countries via the open bridges.

Gush Emunim is proposing settling, as a first stage, mainly on the ridge of the hill in four main modes of settlement: the establishment of two large urban centers equivalent to Jerusalem, one in Qirat 'Arba' and the other near Nabulus; three townships in Samaria; 13 garden cities, three of which will encompass Jerusalem; and 20 groupings of small community settlements around the towns and townships. In the view of the Gush Emunim people, it will be possible to complete the preparation of the groundwork needed for these settlements during this cabinet's current term in office. They will demand it do so in the framework of a public struggle the Gush will open next week against the cabinet because of the way it has been dealing with the Gush settlements and settlements in general.

FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTIONS TO EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL

TA061650Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The heads of the Foreign Ministry today analyzed Egypt's peace program and came to the conclusion that the new Egyptian document indicates a hardening in comparison with the Egyptian positions in previous documents submitted to Israel.

Political correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the hardening is expressed in the following points: The Egyptian program is not by way of being a proposal for peace between Israel and the Arabs, but a document demanding a definite Israeli withdrawal from the territories and their transfer to Arab rule--the Gaza strip to Egypt and Judaea and Samria to Jordan. All this, while the Egyptians are taking into consideration the possibility that a Palestinian state will be established. The Egyptians do not at all mention possible border amendments or the creation of open borders, but they demand the repartition of Jerusalem and that the Israeli settlements in the territories be eliminated.

The Foreign Ministry regards the Egyptian document as a retreat from the Aswan formulation on the Palestinian issue. Cairo is now demanding self-determination for the Palestinians, as compared with the previous formulation, which spoke of the Palestinians' participation in determining their future. The Egyptian document does not mention any sort of return for the concessions demanded of Israel.

PERES ON LEBANESE SITUATION, EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL

TA061903Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jul 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Chairman of the Labor Party Shim'on Peres toured the north today. He said that if the Syrians and the terrorists take control of southern Lebanon Israel will have to draw conclusions. On a tour of Druze villages in Galilee, Mr Peres said that the Syrian Army wants to break the spirit of the Christians in Lebanon. Our correspondent Haviva Roger accompanied Mr Peres on his tour:

Lebanon, which was the most promising country for peaceful coexistence in the area, is being destroyed before our very eyes under Syrian conquest and the actions of the terrorists, Mr Peres said. [begin recording]

[Peres] The Christians are really standing a few against the many with a small amount of ammunition against the most heavy ammunition, and the tragedy being enacted before our eyes is one of the harshest we have ever known. All aid, all we can do to make it easier for them, we must do. It has been proved that in southern Lebanon, a place where we had a chance to calm, to give aid, there is still calm. That is the only part of Lebanon where, out of all this burning fire, there is still a quiet area, a relatively Lebanese area. We were never conquerers in southern Lebanon, but we always told the inhabitants of southern Lebanon to help themselves. This was a correct policy. This policy still holds good, even though there are UN forces there. [end recording]

[Roger] On another matter: Egypt's latest peace proposals. [begin recording]

[Peres] The proposals as they are, of course, are not acceptable to Israel, but, since they have no form of condition, I certainly support a meeting between our foreign minister and the foreign minister of Egypt with the participation of Mr Vance. I regard this as a form of resumption of the political talks and I welcome this.

[Question] Have you exchanged views with the prime minister or the ministers of defense and foreign affairs on the issue of the Egyptian program?

[Answer] Yes, this morning I met with the prime minister and we exchanged views with regard to the Egyptian program. I heard his views, he heard mine, there are, of course, things on which we agree and things on which we do not.

[Question] Will you present the agreed things to President as-Sadat?

[Answer] What I will present to President as-Sadat I will report on after the talk, not now. [end recording]

PERES INTERVIEWED BEFORE DEPARTING FOR VIENNA

TA070647Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Jul 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] In anticipation of the Peres-As-Sadat meeting on Sunday, the chairman of the Labor Party MK Shim'on Peres is flying this morning to Vienna to participate in the discussions of the Socialist International. During his stay in Vienna he will meet with Egypt's President Anwar as-Sadat. Before he left, MK Peres said that he is not going as a representative of the government and that he does not intend to negotiate with Egypt's president. Correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum talked with the chairman of the Labor Party. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Peres, the question in fact is if in light of the fact that the Labor Party does not accept the proposal, is there any point in holding such a meeting?

[Answer] First of all, when there are two very different proposals, the only way is to hold talks. Since we are an open society--we are not Bulgaria or Uganda--there is room for an exchange of views. I am not the cabinet's representative. I am not going in order to hold negotiations with As-Sadat; however, there is always room for an exchange of opinions and it is always desirable and always the right thing.

[Question] Can a meeting with the Egyptian president make his views more flexible?

[Answer] I have no intention of raising expectations. There is no such intention. I am going in order to make my opinion known and to hear his views.

[Question] On what issue will you focus in your talk with the Egyptian president?

[Answer] Let us first of all see what the Egyptian president will bring up. I will, of course, explain our positions--both what is agreed upon by the entire nation and also on those things on which there are varying opinions--because it is no secret. All our Knesset debates are open debates.

[Question] How can one explain the foreign minister's objection to your meeting with the Egyptian president?

[Answer] I think that you should ask the foreign minister.

[Question] You are not prepared to accept the opinions of the foreign minister, who suggested that you in fact not meet with the Egyptian president?

[Answer] I have said that I am not going on a mission for either the Foreign Ministry or the cabinet. The forum whose opinions I am to express is, of course, the partisan forum and I have consulted my colleagues in the party. [end recording]

PERES DISCUSSES TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS

AU070844Y Vienna Domestic Television Service in German 2055 GMT 6 Jul 78 AU

[Moshe Meisels interview with Shim'on Peres, questions in German, answers in English with German translation superimposed--recorded, time and place not given]

[Text] [Peres] I welcome this initiative, which is another effort to bring the sides to a dialog and, if possible, to an understanding.

Where we really differ, the government and the opposition, is on the question of the West Bank. The Labor Party believes that a territorial change, a territorial compromise would enable the Arabs to determine their own fate and to permit them to solve the Palestinian problem within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework. While we do not deny the possibility of an internal solution of the West Bank question, because of the complexity of the situation we also do not deny two other things: first, we are ready to withdraw from territories, and, second, all parties, including Israel, are entitled to have secure and recognized borders.

[Question] Does the opposition propose any other approach to get the Middle East negotiations going again?

[Answer] We feel that the initial approach to negotiations, which was actually accepted by Egypt and Israel, was the best, namely, to start the negotiations with a declaration of principles on the West Bank question. Wherever you look, genuine peace negotiations in Europe or in Asia were started with a declaration of principles. My own feeling is that we were not too far from reaching agreement on a declaration of principles. Actually out of the five major items in a declaration, both governments, the Egyptian and the Israeli, had reached agreement on three. The other two points were not unbridgeable. I (?think) that would allow President as-Sadat to go ahead with his peace plan as far as Egypt is concerned, and Israel to proceed with her hopes and plans, and I am of the opinion that this declaration of principles was and is the best approach to the tactics of the negotiations.

[Question] Do you believe that as prime minister you would be able to achieve peace with Egypt?

[Answer] Normally, every head of the opposition thinks he is better than the existing government. I believe that the Labor Party program would permit an agreement to be reached with the Egyptians.

[Question] Will you go to Vienna for the talks with As-Sadat with Begin's consent?

[Answer] Yes. Not that I need to have the approval, but I think that in a democracy it is normal, a question of courtesy and of coordination, if you like. Hence, as soon as Mr Kreisky informed me about the meeting I called Mr Begin. I told him about the proposed meeting, we met the next day and Mr Begin welcomed it.

JERUSALEM HAVING 'SECOND THOUGHTS' ABOUT LONDON TALKS

TA070719Y Jerusalem POST in English 7 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi]

[Text] Several policy-makers in Jerusalem last night were reported to have second thoughts on whether to dispatch Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to London this month for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. A final decision is to be made at the weekly cabinet session on Sunday.

Confirming that "we do indeed have second thoughts," one well-placed source indicated that Jerusalem's disappointment with Egypt's latest peace proposals was now aggravated by Syria's assault on the Christian quarters of Beirut.

One senior official bluntly described the Egyptian proposal as a "nonstarter."

Some officials tended to dismiss the Egyptian plan as a mere call for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, rather than the blueprint for a negotiated peace settlement which Jerusalem had hoped for. But other officials believe Dayan should go to London because Egypt has not made Israeli withdrawal a condition for the resumption of negotiations, especially those concerning security arrangements.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday issued an analysis which in effect dismissed the Egyptian proposals as an uncompromising scheme which hardly leaves room for negotiations. The summary of the analysis said:

--This is not a proposal for peace between Israel and the Arabs, but rather a document calling for Israel's total withdrawal from the territories and the transfer of their control to the Arabs--the Gaza Strip to Egypt, and Judaea and Samaria to Jordan--while opening an option for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

--The document makes no mention at all of possible border rectifications or secure boundaries but calls for the redivision of Jerusalem and the dismantling of Israeli settlements in the territories.

--There is a clear regression from President Carter's "Aswan formula," which was accepted by President Anwar as-Sadat. He now calls for "self-determination for the Palestinians" (instead of "their participation in the determination of their future"--as in the "Aswan formula").

--There is no mention of any quid pro quo for the substantial concessions Israel is called on to make.

Observers said the above analysis reflected Dayan's own reservations with regard to the Egyptian proposals and his forthcoming talks in London.

The Egyptian proposals yesterday were high on the agenda in a meeting between Premier Menahem Begin and opposition Labor Party Leader Shim'on Peres, who leaves this morning for Vienna, where he will meet As-Sadat. According to one informant, Begin wanted to convey to As-Sadat a cordial message which included a call for a return to the conciliatory spirit which the Egyptian leader demonstrated during his talks in Jerusalem and Ismailia late last year.

In London, where the Dayan-Kamil meeting is slated for July 17, the Foreign Office issued a statement describing Egypt's latest proposals concerning the West Bank and Gaza as "a positive and constructive contribution" to peace efforts.

LONDON TALKS TO BE IN U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

TA061038Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Jul 78 p 2 TA

[Text] The fact that the official residence of the U.S. ambassador to London has been set as the meeting place for the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt--Moshe Dayan and Ibrahim Kamil--with the participation of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance served as a source of interpretation in political circles in the British capital yesterday.

The fact that the talks will be conducted in the U.S. ambassador's residence also emphasizes the great importance the United States attributes to the meeting.

It is assumed that an official announcement about the location of the talks will be issued soon.

WEST BANK MAYORS PROTEST DISMISSAL OF BAYT JALA MAYOR

TA051617Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 5 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpt] The dismissed mayor of Bayt Jala, Da'ud Bishara, today appealed to the high court of justice with a request to issue a conditional order against the commander of the Judaea and Samaria district, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, because of his decision to dismiss him and his colleagues in the town council from their posts.

Our correspondent in Judaea and Samaria reports that the decision to appeal to the high court of justice was made during a rally held yesterday in Bayt Jala by local mayors as a sign of identification with the dismissed mayor and his colleagues. At this rally a protest letter was written, which was sent today to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

Secret Meeting Held

TA051127Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 5 Jul 78 p 8 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] A secret meeting of several West Bank mayors was held yesterday at the Bayt Jala Everest Hotel to discuss the next steps in view of the dismissal of Bayt Jala's mayor and three members of the municipal council by the commander of Judaea and Samaria following their conviction by a military court on charges of assaulting policemen.

The meeting took place with the participation of the mayors of Nabulus, Tulkarm, Hebron and Halhul, the acting mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur and Ramallah, and the deposed mayor of Bayt Jala, Bishara Da'ud. All the participants at the meeting are known to be PLO supporters.

One of the participants (acting Ramallah mayor 'Udda (Rantisi) suggested shutting down the municipalities for 1 day in protest against the dismissal. Other steps were also brought up by other participants, but it was finally decided to appeal to the high court of justice to repeal the decision on the dismissal and to request an order nisi to be issued against appointing new members to the municipal council. It was also decided to cable the commander of Judaea and Samaria and request a pardon for Da'ud and the three municipal council members who were dismissed with him.

It should be noted that officially, the military government forbids mayors to hold meetings such as the one held yesterday.

Yesterday evening, Da'ud and the three municipal council members reported to the police station, in accordance with the commander of Judaea and Samaria's decision which requires them to report there daily for the period of time for which they had originally been sentenced to imprisonment. Yesterday afternoon, a representative of the Bethlehem district gave Da'ud and his colleagues the official documents on behalf of the commander of Judaea and Samaria, according to which they have been deposed from their positions in the municipal council.

Senior security elements said last night that no decision has been made on whom to appoint to replace the four.

The AL-FAJR newspaper reacted to the dismissal with an editorial yesterday. The paper claims that the dismissal was not a wise act and that it stands in contradiction to the peace talks that are now being conducted and to the desire for mutual understanding between the Israeli and Palestinian nations.

Yesterday, Da'ud told an ITIM correspondent that he and his colleagues will continue to hold their positions in the municipality despite the dismissal decree.

"We are continuing to serve the public according to the law, because the military government's decision to dismiss us is illegal," he claimed. He added that the dismissal is a punishment to all of Bayt Jala's 8,000 inhabitants. "We have been made criminals. We must report to the police station daily, and this is against the idea of the two nations' living in peace in the area," he said.

Participants To Be Reprimanded

TA061045Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Jul 78 p 4 TA

[By Tawfiq Khuri]

[Text] Yesterday, Judaea and Samaria mayors published a manifesto calling upon the military commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, to back down on his decision to dismiss Bayt Jala Mayor Bishara Da'ud and three other members of the municipal council.

In that manifesto, published in the East Jerusalem Arab newspapers, the mayors claimed that the decision to dismiss the mayor and his colleagues was not legal and went against the interests of the inhabitants of the territories, and that it was adopted without any justified reason.

The mayors formulated their manifesto at a secret meeting held the day before yesterday at the Bayt Jala Everest Hotel. The mayors who participated in that meeting will soon be called to the military governor's offices and will be reprimanded. They will be asked unequivocally to refrain in the future from holding meetings that are not of a municipal nature.

The Bayt Jala meeting took place with the participation of the mayors of Hebron, Nabulus, Tulk Tulkarm and Halhul and the deputy mayors of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Ramallah and Al-Birah.

ARAB INHABITANTS ASKED TO PROVED PROOF ON LAND CLAIMS

TA060916Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 78 p 2 TA

[By Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Inhabitants of the village of Yasuf, south of Nabulus, have recently been asked to come to the military government offices in Tulkarm where they were asked to give the names of the landowners in the area around the settlement of Tapu'ah (at present there is a Nahal settlement there).

The inhabitants of the village of Yasuf plan to ask a lawyer this week to appeal to the high court of justice concerning the land that was fenced off for the purpose of setting up the settlement (the inhabitants of the village claim that this involves approximately 200 dunam). The inhabitants claim that the land on which the settlement has been established is private agricultural land and they are presenting land registration documents from the time of the British mandate to support their claim.

The inhabitants now fear that the authorities will wish to fence off further agricultural land for the purpose of expanding the settlement of Tapu'ah.

AFGHANISTAN

MOSCOW CITES FOREIGN MINISTER'S KABUL INTERVIEW

For a Moscow Radio account of a BBC interview with Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, see the South Asia section of the 7 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

BANGLADESH

BURMESE DELEGATION ARRIVES TO DISCUSS REFUGEE ISSUE

BK061353Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Text] An 11-member Burmese delegation led by the deputy foreign minister, U Tin Ohn, arrived in Dacca this afternoon for talks with Bangladesh officials on the question of Burmese refugees. The Burmese leader was received at the airport by the foreign secretary.

Talking to newsmen, the Burmese deputy foreign minister said his talks will be in continuation of the previous negotiations held in this regard.

Replying to a question, he said he has brought a new proposal on the issue. Asked to elaborate, the Burmese minister said his country is ready to take back what he called the legitimate and bonafide Burmese nationals.

About the prospect of the solution of the humanitarian problem, Mr Ohn said he is very much optimistic.

Replying to another question about the possible impact on bilateral relations following the mass influx of Burmese refugees into Bangladesh, the Burmese minister said: Our relations are very cordial and friendly. He said he is very happy to be in Bangladesh on his first ever visit to this country.

Formal talks between Bangladesh and Burma are beginning tomorrow. The Bangladesh side will be led by the foreign secretary while the Burmese deputy foreign minister will lead his country's delegation.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMSUL HAQ RETURNS FROM BANGKOK

BK061725Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The foreign minister, Prof Shamsul Haq, returned to Dacca this evening after a 2-day good will visit to Thailand.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he was received in audience by King Phumiphon, who showed keen interest in the progress that Bangladesh is making in economic and social development. The king, he said, expressed the hope that the two countries will cooperate in many fields because of the traditional ties and similarity of views on many regional and international issues.

The foreign minister also held a very fruitful discussion with the prime minister, General Kriangsak.

Professor Haq also extended an invitation to the Thai king and the prime minister on behalf of President Ziaur Rahman to visit Bangladesh.

During his stay in the Thai capital, he exchanged instruments of ratification of the agreement on cooperation in the development of fisheries.

Replying to a question, he hoped that Burma would take back the Burmese refugees who crossed into our territory and were temporarily sheltered for humanitarian reasons.

Earlier, addressing a news conference in Bangkok, he ruled out the possibility of permanent asylum for more than 200,000 Burmese refugees in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's stand on the refugee problem is that they should be repatriated to their homeland and rehabilitated in the shortest possible time in the interest of good neighborliness and border peace, he added.

INDIA

ANOTHER JANATA LEADER RESIGNS, MORE ALLEGATIONS

BK061345Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The deputy leader of the Janata parliamentary party, Mr S.N. Mishra, has resigned. In his letter of resignation, addressed to the prime minister, Mr Mishra described the action against Mr Charan Singh and Mr Raj Narain as wrong in principle. The charges against them are neither plausible nor have any substance. He alleged that some of the prime minister's utterances do not ideally conform to the concept of collective responsibility. Mr Mishra referred to Mr Desai's statements on Sikkim and nuclear policy and said that these did not have the approval of the party or the government.

An official spokesman has refuted Mr Charan Singh's statement that he has been kept in the dark about the deliberations of the cabinet on the Shah Commission's report after his illness. The spokesman explained that even when a member of the union cabinet is ill or is on tour, notice of cabinet meetings, (?official) papers and minutes are sent to him without fail. This practice was followed in the case of Mr Charan Singh also.

Meanwhile, addressing a gathering of his supporters in New Delhi yesterday, Mr Charan Singh has alleged that Mr Desai's annoyance with him for having proposed a commission of inquiry to go into the allegation of corruption against his son, Mr Kantilal Desai, may have influenced the demand for his resignation.

JANATA TO DISCUSS 'OVERALL SETTLEMENT' OF PARTY DISPUTE

BK070347Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jul 78 BK

[Text] After day-long efforts to resolve the crisis in the Janata Party, it was announced late last night that the proposed rally by Mr Charan Singh's supporters scheduled for the 17th of this month has been called off. In view of this, the meeting of the Haryana Janata Legislature Party which was to take place today to elect a new leader has been canceled.

The announcement was made by the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, in New Delhi. He recalled that the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, has already clarified the position about his earlier statements and has withdrawn them.

About party differences, there are to be mutual discussions for an overall settlement. In this connection, Mr Chandra Shekhar said any suggestion from any quarter and the help and cooperation of Jayprakash Narayan and Acharya Kriplani will be welcomed. He said this decision has been taken after consulting all the members of the parliamentary board.

Replying to a newsman's question about resignations from the government, Mr Chandra Shekhar said these are government matters in which the prerogative of the prime minister is supreme.

He told a correspondent that a meeting between the prime minister and Mr Charan Singh is possible. Mr Charan Singh has expressed a desire to meet with Mr Morarji Desai who is also willing. It has been agreed that there will be no mutual recrimination either in public or in the press.

The AIR [All-India Radio] correspondent reports that the dramatic announcement came following mediation efforts by a number of Janata Party leaders on the basis of a three-point formula. The crisis was also believed to have been discussed among them when the cabinet met formally last evening. Mr Vajpayee, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Fernandes and Mr Karpuri Thankur, who have been active in bringing about a rapprochement, held talks with Mr S.N. Mishra and Mr Rabi Ray, close associates of Mr Charan Singh. They held a prolonged meeting at Mr Patnaik's house with several telephone calls to some other leaders in between. Later, they drove to Mr Chandra Shekhar's house where they held discussions with him and his colleagues, including Mr Madhu Limaye and Mr Ramakrishna Hegde. It was at this meeting that the settlement was arrived at.

The president of the Maharashtra unit of the Janata Party, Mr S.M. Joshi, has welcomed the settlement. Speaking to newsmen in Poona, he said the people all over the country will be greatly relieved.

In Chandigarh, there was jubilation among Mr Devi Lal's supporters.

PROSECUTION OF MRS GANDHI 'TO BE LAUNCHED SOON'

BK070349Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The prosecution of Mrs Gandhi is expected to be launched soon. It is understood that the processing of five cases against her is nearing completion.

The cases include (?orders) of arrests and unlawful detention of the late Mr Bhimsen Sachar and four textile inspectors which had figured in the Shah Commission reports, and one involving a charge of abuse of official position to procure jeeps for electioneering purposes.

JATTI SPEAKS AT DINNER FOR IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT

BK061205Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The vice president, Mr Jatti, reaffirmed India's principled support for the Arab cause for withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab lands and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Iraqi vice president, Mr Ma'ruf, in New Delhi last night, Mr Jatti said India has great regard for the steadfastness and devotion with which Iraq has pursued the Arab cause. He said India and Iraq as members of the Third World stand for a just and equitable new international economic order. He expressed confidence that Mr Ma'ruf's visit would help in further consolidating relations between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural and other fields.

Replying to the toast, Mr Taha Ma'ruf expressed his gratitude to India for its continued support to the Arab cause, particularly the question of Palestine. He said the views of India and Iraq are either identical or close on issues like nonalinement, declaring the Indian Ocean [illegible]e of peace, and the struggle against racial discrimination.

NEPAL

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS 1978-79 BUDGET

BK061637Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Excerpts] The finance minister, Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, presented the budget estimate of 3,752.8 million rupees for the financial year 1978-79 at the Rashtriya Panchayat today. The budget has earmarked 1,104.9 million rupees for the revenue side and 2,647.8 million rupees for the development side. The budget estimates for the next financial year are higher about 31 percent than those of the current financial year. The outlay for the development side has been increased by 37 percent, while the revenue expenditures are up by 20 percent, mainly due to the proposed rise in the payscale of government employees.

Presenting the budget estimates, the finance minister, Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa, said that on the resources side, government revenue from various sources was estimated at 2,025.55 million rupees, including receipts from new tax proposals. Foreign aid is estimated at about 1,523.3 million rupees.

Noting that greater emphasis has been given to direct taxation, Finance Minister Dr Thapa said that the revenue policy for the next financial year was based on the consideration to insure that the common man was not burdened with additional taxes--to impose taxes on the basis of equity, to protect and promote domestic industries, and to provide incentives for export.

In order to encourage and promote export trade, customs duties on exports of all manufactured goods, except on traditional export goods based on agricultural products, have been abolished. Import duties on leather shoes, animal feed, toilet (?goods), butter and hosiery and other such goods have been increased in order to protect the Nepalese industry. Customs duties, however, have not been raised on goods of daily necessities of the common man.

Duties on some spices have been lowered in view of the present rise in price trend, and duties on agricultural and forest-based primary goods have been abolished. Duties on the import of newsprint and paper have been abolished, and the sales tax on paper has also been taken off. Since domestic production of cement is not adequate for the construction work, import duty on cement was lowered to the level of excise duty on domestic production so that it will not be a constraint on development work.

Regarding direct taxation, Dr Thapa said that the income tax schedule will be made equitable and protective. The tax on housing which was levied and assessed separately has been abolished, and it was combined with the income from other sources and will be assessed with income tax.

Dr Thapa said that inspired by the guidance from his majesty, this budget was intended to be yet another major step in our attempt to create conditions by fulfilling the basic needs of the people for a nationwide campaign for development at the local level, and to continue at the national level the efforts of his majesty's government for strengthening the foundation of all-round development. He said it was certain that this framework will lend a new direction not only to the program for the next year but to all our developmental endeavors in the future.

PAKISTAN

JAMIAT ULEMA-I-PAKISTAN BREAKS AWAY FROM PNA

BK061529Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan has decided to break away from the Pakistan National Alliance. The decision was announced after a meeting of the central body of the party in Lahore today.

AFP Report

BK061415Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, July 6 (AFP)--The religious Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan Party today quit the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), widening cracks in the group formed early last year to oppose former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The party said the alliance was "shattered" by the decision of the Muslim League, another faction of the group, to join a federal cabinet formed by Pakistani Martial Law Administrator Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq yesterday.

Several Muslim League leaders agreed to become members of the 22-man cabinet in defiance of the wishes of the PNA high command.

The Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan is likely to cooperate with the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party of retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan who withdrew his organization from the alliance early this year and has been demanding early general elections.

The PNA, which combined nine rightwing parties in the beginning, has in its fold now the Jamiat-i-Islami, the Pakistan Democratic Party, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam, Khaksar Party, Muslim League, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and National Democratic Party of Wali Khan, former president of the defunct National Awami Party.

Observers regard as unlikely the Muslim League's continued association with the PNA because of its differences with the group's leadership.

RADIO REPORTS ON FIFTH 5-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN

BK041405Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The fifth 5-year plan announced over the radio and television network a short while ago involves a development outlay of 210 billion rupees, with more than 75 percent of it to be financed from domestic resources and national savings. The remainder will be financed by foreign assistance.

Announcing the salient features of the plan, the adviser on planning and coordination, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan, said that 148 billion rupees will be spent in the public sector while 62 billion rupees has been earmarked for the private sector. He said the foremost objective of the plan is elimination of the basic weaknesses of the national economy and strengthening the economic base for sustained progress. He said it recognizes the overall objective of the nation to develop a humane, just and progressive society based on Islamic values. The investments, savings, trade and growth policies have been so designed as to achieve these objectives over the plan period.

Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan said that the plan incorporates a concrete program for developing rural areas, easing urban problems, developing backward areas, meeting the basic needs of the population, promoting equity, and laying the foundation of long term economic growth. The development programs for Baluchistan, Azad Kashmir, the tribal areas and northern areas have been formulated to bring them closer to the national average. He said that with whatever efforts that could be mobilized within the last year the economy has started moving ahead.

Analyzing the areas of major emphasis in the plan, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan said top priority has been given to agriculture and rural development. A target of a 6-percent growth rate in the agricultural sector has been suggested as against an average growth rate of 1.8 percent over the last 8 years. The highlights of this sector include transition from self-sufficiency in wheat to export of agricultural products; increased production of rice, oil seeds, protein-rich food, cotton, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables; improved productivity of small farmers and livestock production. Special attention is to be paid to fertilizer consumption, which is expected to double over the plan period. The bulk of it will be produced locally.

Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan said the GNP growth rate will be raised to more than 7 percent per annum, with the major part of growth coming from agriculture. The production targets envisaged in the agricultural sector under the plan are: wheat, 12.8 million tons; rice, 3.9 million tons; sugarcane, 34.3 million tons; and cotton, 5 million bales.

In the industrial sector, among the new areas opened up for private enterprise substantial investment is anticipated in fertilizers, cement, chemicals and engineering, in addition to traditional industries like sugar and textiles. The share of the private sector in industrial investment is expected to be 48 percent, as against 20 percent during 1975-78.

The plan envisages an average growth rate of 10 percent in the industrial sector as a result of improved utilization of capacity in both the public and private sectors, completion of major projects in the public sector and more favorable private investments. The new development strategy is expected to increase the gross domestic product growth rate to 4.2 percent per annum as against 3.1 percent during 1972-77. Per capita income is projected to increase at the rate of 4.2 percent per annum, or 23 percent in 5 years.

In the industrial sector the targets are: cotton yarn, 548 million kg; cotton cloth, 2,265 billion meters; sugar, 1 million tons; vegetable ghee and refined oil, 650,000 tons; fertilizers, 1,381 million metric tons; cement, 6 million tons; and steel, 800,000 tons.

The net foreign assistance is envisaged to stabilize at around $1 billion annually during the plan period. In the field of education, the fifth plan, Mr Ghulam Ishaque Khan said, proposes to increase maximum expenditure on education from 1.8 percent of GNP to 3.1 percent by 1982-83. There will be a radical stress on priorities in favor of school and technical education as well as the adult literacy program, which will be given high priority. It is estimated that by the end of the plan period, the literacy rate would increase to 29.8 percent.

He said that at the end of the plan period basic health coverage would be available within a radius of 2 to 4 miles of every person in Pakistan. A total of 5,221 basic health units and rural health centers will be established, while hospital beds would increase by 15,000.

In the case of housing, the plan provides for development of 55,000 plots annually.

The plan envisages the creation of 3.4 million jobs, compared to an increase of 3.8 million in the labor force. The difference on present indication could be absorbed by the emigration of workers.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE: NEW CONSTITUTION TO BE ADOPTED IN 2 WEEKS

BK011119Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jul 78 BK

[Excerpt] The president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, announced yesterday that a new constitution will be adopted within the next 2 weeks. It will seek to have an elected president and an elected legislature both working together for the welfare of the people. It will also insure the constant participation of the people in policy-making through referenda and insure the independence of the judiciary. The new constitution, Mr Jayewardene said, would be fashioned to suit the genius of the people. The president was inaugurating an international Moslem seminar on human rights and obligations in Islam at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo.

Mr Jayewardene observed that the holy Koran lays down guidelines as to how the constitution should be drafted, what should be the sovereignty of the people and what should be the relationship between the executive and the legislature. In this context, he said, recent laws in Sri Lanka had tried to create a society in which people would be able to lead a civilized life.

PREMADASH EXPLAINS VOTING UNDER PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

BK021138Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, said that under the proposed new constitution a democratic voting scheme will be implemented. Addressing a meeting which followed the inauguration of several development projects at (Kutikavatpelia) in Colombo, the prime minister explained at length the consolidation of the people's rights under the new constitution. He said that under the proportional voting system, the votes of a party which fails to obtain one-eighth of the total polled votes will be forfeited. After 6 months of the general election, the people will have the right to vote to elect the president. [sentence as heard]

Explaining further, Mr Premadasa made it clear that a person who obtains more than 50 percent of the total vote polled will become the president. A person who wins confidence in parliament will be appointed prime minister.

According to the new constitution, the people will be granted an opportunity to file (?complaints) against officials, parties and politicians for injustices caused.

Referring to the construction of 100,000 houses, he added that assistance will be sought from Britain, France, Korea and Singapore. He said that after the D.A. Senanayake government, it was the present government that allocated a large sum of money for development activity.

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